

Follow-up committee reviews treaty progress

AMMAN (Petra) — The joint Jordanian-Israeli follow-up committee held a meeting Tuesday on the Israeli side of the Dead Sea to review progress in the implementation of agreements emanating from the peace treaty that Jordan and Israel signed in October. A statement following the meeting said that the committee reviewed draft agreements on the environment, energy and health which have already been endorsed by the two sides. The committee decided on dates for the formal signing of the agreements and agreed on the dates for the start of their implementation. The committee also reviewed draft agreements related to cooperation in agriculture, the development of Aqaba and Eilat, science and culture as well as economic affairs, transport and civil aviation. The statement said the two sides were expected to end discussions on these matters in August. The Jordanian side was headed by Dr. Hani Mulk and the Israeli side by Israel's ambassador to Jordan Shimon Shamir.

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جordan تابع يومية مستقلة نشرت باللغة العربية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الرأي

Housing Bank capital raised to JD 18m

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Tuesday approved raising the capital of the Housing Bank to JD 18 million upon a recommendation by the development council. The bank has recently applied to the economic council requesting that its capital be raised to JD 25 million. The Cabinet, meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, also endorsed a trade agreement signed last month with Romania. In addition, it approved the participation of the national Jordanian folk troupe in the Ismaeliya (Egypt) international festival later this month.

King pays one-day visit to Egypt

King, Mubarak pledge to bolster ties, fight extremism

AMMAN (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday made a short visit to Egypt and held talks with President Hosni Mubarak on ways of improving Arab ties, the peace process, relations between the two countries and the situation in Bosnia.

At a press conference held jointly with President Mubarak, King Hussein said that Jordan along with Egypt were doing their best to achieve Arab solidarity and heal Arab rifts, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. The King said: "We are confident that we will eventually achieve the atmosphere of cooperation and brotherhood that we all seek, so that we can restore the status worthy of us in this world."

King Hussein pledged to fight "with all our power" extremists, who threaten the region's stability.

"We will also fight the continuous attempts of these opportunists who hurt our religion and faith," King Hussein said.

The two leaders met in the Mediterranean port for talks that Jordanian officials said would focus on the peace process and reconciliation among Arab countries still divided by the Gulf war.

"We have suffered from the effects of terrorism and we will fight it with all our power," the King said.

On the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, Mr. Mubarak told reporters that although talks were progressing slowly, he hoped that "by the end of this year, they will reach a solution."

On the MENA summit and the possibility of setting up a common Arab market, President Mubarak recalled that the idea to establish a common Arab market surfaced in the 1960s, before the establishment of the European market.

On the issue of Bosnia, Mr. Mubarak said: "We support, as much as we can, Bosnia, whether that be Egypt, Jordan or the Muslim and Arab World, but there are many foreign obstacles."

He dismissed any relation between the MENA econ-



His Majesty King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor are being greeted on arrival at Alexandria airport by President Hosni Mubarak and Mrs. Mubarak. The King and the

Queen returned home later Tuesday after the one-day talks with Egyptian leaders (AFP photo)

Leaflet claims responsibility for Tel Aviv attack

Hamas warns U.S. not to extradite leader to Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The militant Islamic group Hamas published a letter Tuesday warning President Clinton of "a wave of anger and retaliation throughout the Arab and Islamic world" if the United States extrades a detained Hamas leader to Israel.

King Hussein left for Amman shortly after the talks. Today the King heads to Qatar on a similar mission to solidify Arab relations and will meet the new emir, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani.

King Hussein and Mr. Mubarak also discussed the Middle East peace process to

especially "ways to

NATO extends airstrike threat to all 'safe havens'

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — NATO on Tuesday extended its threat of airstrikes against Bosnian Serbs if they attack any of the remaining "safe areas" in Bosnia, diplomats said.

The alliance agreed previously to use air power only to deter attacks against Gorazde.

At Tuesday's meeting of the NATO ambassadors that threat was extended to also cover attacks against Tuzla, Bihać and Sarajevo.

"Despite the recent promises of the Croatian Serbs ... neither has there been a withdrawal nor has the humanitarian help been allowed to reach the completely encircled Bihać pocket," he said in the letter faxed to the Associated Press office in the Croatian capital of Zagreb on Tuesday.

"We have an agreement. A good one," said John Gough, the British ambassador to NATO.

Officials also said the allies would consider enlarging the Bihać safe area but did not immediately give any details.

Gorazde in Eastern Bosnia, and Bihać in the west, drew increased international attention after Bosnia's rebel Serbs took the U.N.-safe areas of Srebrenica and Zepa in Eastern Bosnia in July.

NATO officials said the situation in Bihać was complicated, as the "safe area" includes only a small area around Bihać city and not the whole Bosnian government-held enclave.

The entire area is home to some 200,000 people and faces attack from surrounding Serb-led forces.

Under last week's decision, NATO told the Bosnian Serbs they could face punishing airstrikes if they so much as threatened to attack Gorazde "safe area."

U.S. defense secretary William Perry suggested Monday already that NATO may be considering other options for Bihać.

"It is important that the Bihać safe area be protected as well, but I would not want to simply say

that the ultimatum with respect to Gorazde is the appropriate way to do that," Mr. Perry said.

In a letter to the U.N. Security Council, Bosnian Foreign Minister Muhammed Sacirbey said the attacks by rebel Serbs in Bosnia and Croatia on the Bihać territory continued despite Croatian Serbs pledging to withdraw.

"Despite the recent promises of the Croatian Serbs ... neither has there been a withdrawal nor has the humanitarian help been allowed to reach the completely encircled Bihać pocket," he said in the letter faxed to the Associated Press office in the Croatian capital of Zagreb on Tuesday.

"Once again, we call upon the United Nations, and ... NATO, to meet their commitment to respond to the assault upon Bihać region and 'safe area,'" Mr. Sacirbey wrote.

The talks are aimed at preventing war from re-igniting in the former Yugoslav republic, but on Tuesday conflict already appeared to be spilling across Bosnia-Herzegovina into neighbouring Croatia, which has seen little fighting since a short but brutal war in 1991.

Serb forces from Krajina, the 17 per cent of Croatia controlled by separatist Serbs, shelled Gospic and Otočac in southern Croatia Tuesday and caused "major material damage," the Croatian defense ministry said.

The United Nations has not confirmed the origin of the shelling or said whether there were any casualties but did report an air raid by Krajina Serbs against Croat positions in southwest Bosnia.

Croatian army and Bosnian Croat forces have massed large numbers of troops around Gospic, about 15 kilometres from Serb-controlled areas, the United Nations said earlier in the week.

The troop concentration border Krajina, in southwest Croatia. In an area formerly controlled by the United Nations, the two sides have placed cannons and artillery pieces in what looks like a new frontline.

"The government will enforce the law and reserve the appropriate treatment for those who carry out ridiculous and provocative acts," he said during a tour of Jordan Valley settlements.

"Shut up," Mr. Rabin shouted back at one man.

"You can shout all you like, the people support and will continue to support peace."

The prime minister opened a \$10-million road which allows Israelis to keep out of the self-rule enclave of Jericho when they travel through the Jordan Valley.

Israel intends to build 130 kilometres of new roads to enable West Bank settlers to avoid Arab towns which are due to become autonomous.

Troops tore down the settlers' tents and makeshift huts off Artis hill, north of Jerusalem, and dragged and carried away settlers, some wrapped in prayer shawls.

"You are allied with the Arabs."

Nearly 100 protesters were briefly detained and three settlers went to hospital with minor injuries.

It was the second such operation on the West Bank in two days, after security forces battled hundreds of Israelis on another hill-top near the colony of Efrat on Monday.

Further confrontations looked inevitable as Mr. Rabin warned the 130,000 settlers they would not be spared the full force of the law.

Scientists solve Aspirin headache

WASHINGTON (AFP) — After decades of head-scratching to find out how Aspirin provides the body with blissful relief, researchers have finally solved the mystery.

In a recently published report researchers at the University of Chicago said that Aspirin's effect on the organism was to block the production of prostaglandins, the fatty acids that cause fever, headaches and inflammation.

When people get the flu or pull a muscle, the body reacts by triggering the synthesis of two enzymes called prostaglandin H1 (PGHS-1) and prostaglandin H2 (PGHS-2) to produce the harmful prostaglandin acids.

The prostaglandin H1 and H2 enzymes are crystal-shaped with hollow cylinder or tunnel that runs through their middle.

A reversal of these results would serve to eliminate the risk of stomach ulcers.

1 killed, 4 injured in bomb attack in S. Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — A roadside bomb exploded in Israeli-held South Lebanon Tuesday, killing a Lebanese army soldier and injuring four others, security sources said.

The bomb went off on a road near the village of Rihani in the border enclave Israel calls a "security zone."

The soldiers were headed to the army garrison in the Christian town of Jezzine when their Honda Sedan was blown up by a remote-controlled bomb at about 11 a.m. (0800 GMT), said the sources.

The casualties were transported to a hospital outside the Israeli-occupied enclave.

Underlining the daily Lebanese-Israeli tension, Israeli warplanes on reconnaissance flights broke the sound barrier over the Lebanese capital shortly after the army day ceremony in the eastern hilltop suburb of Fayadiyah.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Tuesday approved the retirement of Jordan's ambassador to the U.N. Adnan Abu Odeh upon his request as of today.

Abu Odeh retires

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S. Jayakar of

Thailand as

ambassador to the

U.N. and as

Iraq says army can defend Arabs

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq, on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Kuwait, said Tuesday its army had the means to defend itself and other Arab countries.

The army "remains and will remain the largest force of dissension and Arab defence," the official Al Jumhouri newspaper said.

"The Iraqi army has the material means as well as the morale and determination needed to defend Iraq's independence and sovereignty in any circumstances," Al Jumhouri said.

Iraq reported Monday that it had repaired much of the military equipment which was damaged in the 1991 Gulf War to free Kuwait, seven months after Saddam Hussein's forces invaded it on Aug. 2, 1990.

Iraq has said several times that its army was as powerful as ever.

In January a senior military official said Iraqi troops ranked fourth in the world after those of the United States, Russia and China, but gave no details on the number of troops or equipment it had.

Iraq has an army of 382,000 men supported by 650,000 reservists, 20,000 border guards and 4,800 militiamen, according to figures published by the International Institute of Strategic Studies in London.

Its army is equipped with 2,200 tanks and armoured vehicles, 2,000 troops transporters, 1,500 long-range heavy artillery pieces, and 230 helicopters, according to the institute. It said the air force had six bombers, 130 ground attack aircraft and 180 fighters.

Jane's Intelligence Review said in February that Iraq remained a "potent threat to its neighbours" despite having lost two-thirds of its troop strength and half of its equipment in the Gulf War.

U.N. sanctions have also deprived the army of spare parts, and U.N. disarmament teams have forced it to scrap its weapons of mass destruction.

Five years after it invaded Kuwait and was punished with crippling economic sanctions, Iraq is threatening a showdown unless the embargo is lifted.

It has given the U.N. disarmament commission until the end of August to finish its work and then recommend in September a lifting of the sanctions or face a withdrawal of Baghdad's cooperation.

The Iraqi government has warned its people to be prepared for "showdown" while announcing it has repaired tanks, artillery and helicopters which were damaged in

Iran stops critical weekly

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian authorities have stopped the publication of a radical Islamic weekly known for exposing corruption in high places, a member of the magazine's staff said.

"We have only received a copy of a fax sent by the authorities to our printing house telling them not to print our paper," a member of the staff of Payam-E-Daneshjoo (Student's Message), who did not give his name, told Reuters by telephone from Tehran.

The fax said the decision was taken by the Press Review Board because of unspecified "press violations," he added.

"We have not heard anything official yet, but I think

the 1991 Gulf War, when a U.S.-led coalition drove it out of Kuwait.

Jane's said in February that Iraq has given priority to rebuilding the elite Republican Guards after it lost as much as three-quarters of its troop strength and half its equipment during the war for Kuwait.

Iraq sent two Republican Guard units toward Kuwait last October in what many feared would be a repeat of the 1990 invasion, but withdrew after Washington sent warplanes, ships and thousands of troops in the region.

Since Jane's report came out, Iraq has announced a campaign to repair more damaged military equipment and, reported Monday that it had repaired more than 1,000 items.

Besides the U.S.-led offensive to liberate Kuwait, the Iraqi military had also been weakened by the sanctions which deprive it of spare parts and by U.N. teams which have disarmed it of weapons of mass destruction.

Roll Ekeus, the head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) to disarm Iraq, said Baghdad had little choice but to cooperate with the United Nations when Iraqi officials first started threatening to withhold cooperation in the future.

The UNSCOM chairman is due in Baghdad Friday to determine whether Iraq has fulfilled a promise to provide a full and final report on its germ warfare programme. He wants Baghdad to account for 17 tonnes of growth media which could be used to make botulinum and anthrax.

Mr. Ekeus said the germ warfare issue was the sole main obstacle to a lifting of the sanctions. U.N. resolutions ending the Gulf War require a lifting of the oil embargo once Iraq has eliminated all its weapons of mass destruction.

But Mr. Ekeus has also said the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China — will have the final word on the sanctions.

The United States — supported by Britain — has taken a hard line, urging Iraq to comply not only with weapons resolutions but also release Kuwaiti prisoners and respect human rights before the embargo is lifted.

Irani opposition members said Saddam was trying to improve his human rights image in hopes of a lifting of sanctions when he declared a general amnesty for his opponents Sunday. It was the second amnesty in 10 days.

On his desk is a photograph of Eritrea's tiny railroad.

Italian engineers estimated it would cost at least \$500 million to carve a railroad through the barren mountains between the capital, Asmara, and Massawa, a port on the Red Sea.

Eritrea could not afford that, and was determined not to join the beggar nations whose futures are mortgaged to aid and loans and forced to survive on more charity.

So Eritreans decided to rebuild their railroad with their own labour and scavenged parts.

First built by Italians, the railroad stopped running in 1974. Its rails were cannibalised for other uses during the long war to break away from Ethiopia.

Today, hundreds of workers armed with picks and shovels have ex-



NEW BORDER CROSSING: Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and Georgian President Edward Shevardnadze (from left to right) wave to the public during a ceremony for a newly opened border-crossing between Turkey and Georgia (AFP photo)

Eritrea tries the path of self-reliance

MASSAWA, Eritrea (AP) — A tiny, antique diesel locomotive slows and passengers clamber aboard the wooden benches of two weathered, open-air cars.

Eritrea's railway looks like a toy and doesn't yet go as far as a marathoner can run in a few hours.

But to Eritreans, the narrow gauge railway is as big a deal as the transcontinental railroad was to Americans. For a country scarred by 30 years of war, it is a symbol in cold steel of freedom, resolve and self-reliance.

Since winning independence from Ethiopia in 1991, Eritreans have turned their energies inward to build self-sufficiency, rejecting any outside help that does not move them toward that goal.

It is a daring strategy for Africa's newest nation. Average annual income in Eritrea is less than \$150 a person, and two-thirds of its people need food aid. But by using donated food to pay people to build the railroad and other projects, the government is trying to end reliance on foreign help as fast as it can.

"We have the capacity for self-sufficiency," President Isaias Afewerki said in an interview. "We don't believe aid can solve our problems."

On his desk is a photograph of Eritrea's tiny railroad.

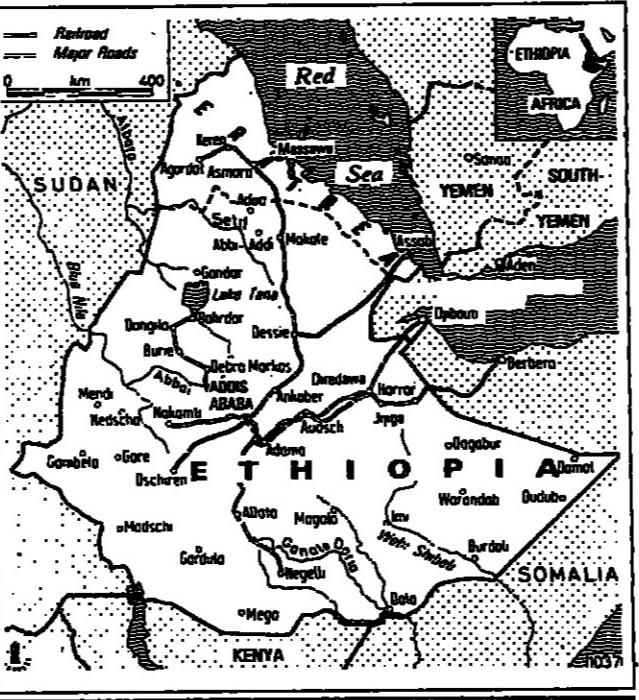
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Today, hundreds of workers armed with picks and shovels have ex-



tended the railroad 30 kilometres (19 miles) inland from Massawa. They collect rails from around the country and dig their own gravel for roadbeds.

The government cannot provide a precise figure on what the railroad has cost so far because of the nature of the project.

But it says it has used about 30 per cent of foreign food aid to pay for such food-for-work projects, and hopes to increase that to 50 per cent or even 60 per cent this year.

For now, the train carries passengers about 4 kilometres (2½ miles) from the outskirts of Massawa to the port. Tickets cost .25 birr (about 4 cents). The builders expect to complete the next 75 kilometres (47 miles) to Asmara in 18 months.

"I'll bet this railway can go another 300 kilometres (188 miles) without any foreign experts," said Dr. Neryo Teklemichael, director of the Eritrean Relief and Rehabilitation Agency. "Many people have a strong attachment to this railroad."

Eritrea is following a new road on the world's poorest continent, a direction deemed too rugged by many African neighbours.

"Handouts have brought nothing to Africa but disaster," said Saleh Meky, the U.S.-educated

minister of marine resources.

Eritrea shuns aid and development projects that it believes will not help make its 3 million people self-reliant.

"Farming supports 80 per cent of the population, accounts for 50 per cent of the economy and 70 per cent of exports.

But only about one-quarter of the country is suitable for farming, and just 10 per cent of that land is cultivated.

So the former rebel leaders who run Eritrea are using food aid to pay people to build dams, repair roads and terrace barren mountainsides for farming.

"The effective use of aid is to free society from any dependence on outside sources," said Mr. Isaia. "If aid is sustainable, then life is not sustainable."

Every summer, all of Eritrea's thousands of high school students are required to spend two months planting trees or terracing mountainsides. In exchange, they get food and pocket money.

Mr. Saleh's Ministry of Marine Resources is once again exploiting Eritrea's fishing areas, virtually untouched during the war, to feed the people and earn badly needed foreign exchange.

Ministry trucks travel

from neighbourhood to neighbourhood selling fish in an attempt to change the diet of Eritreans and reduce food imports.

Mr. Saleh's ministry has accepted only aid that will help determine the sustainable fish catch from its waters, build processing plants and make ice for fishing boats.

Alongside a pier in Massawa, Eritreans are painstakingly building new boats and repairing their old brightly coloured fishing dhows.

"We have done many things ourselves," said Nerayo. "During the war, we used to put American spare parts on Russian cars. We called them vodka cola."

Eritrea's long war for independence hammered home the lesson of self-reliance. Without outside help, the Eritreans fought Africa's largest army, a military machine driven by \$7 billion in Soviet aid.

Eritreans carved factories into mountainsides to make weapons and medicines. They learned to repair damaged and abandoned tanks. They even used rails from the railway they are now rebuilding to reinforce bunkers.

"Even in the darkest moments, we really believed we had to be self-reliant," said Nerayo, a surgeon on the front lines during the war.

On a continent often divided along ethnic lines, the war also brought unity to this country of nine ethnic groups, each with its own language, and to a population almost evenly divided between Christians and Muslims.

Mr. Isaia says Eritrea is drafting a constitution that will bring multi-party elections in 1997 and guarantee social justice and freedom of expression and religion.

The president accuses the radical Islamic regime in Sudan, the giant neighbour to the west, of trying to export its revolution to Eritrea. He says that is doomed to fail.

"There are dissatisfied people here. But they are not being recruited by radical Muslim groups," Mr. Isaia said. "Islam and Christianity have lived here together for 1,000 years."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hundreds evacuated from Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — Hundreds of people have been evacuated after a rain-heavy river burst its banks and destroyed 50 houses in eastern Sudan, the official Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) reported Tuesday. SUNA said the Gash River had submerged several residential parts of Massala town, near the border with Eritrea. About 450 families were evacuated to safer areas after water surrounded their houses. The level of the river at the nearby Ramla residential area reached one metre. The authorities in Kassala have mobilised civilians and security forces to erect embankments around the river to prevent further flooding. SUNA said. Heavy rain has hit many parts of Sudan in recent weeks, including the capital Khartoum. Earlier this year, the capital suffered long power cuts because of lack of rain. But the government newspaper Al Khartoum residents were now going without power for up to six hours a day because of too much rain.

3 die in Beirut apartment collapse

BEIRUT (AFP) — Three Syrian construction workers were killed and seven others were injured Monday when an apartment block collapsed in Beirut's old downtown, a Lebanese police said. The workers were tearing down a building as part of reconstruction of Lebanon's shattered capital after the 1975-90 civil war, the police said. It was the second such incident in less than two months: five Syrian workers died and 12 others were injured when part of the Hotel Coral Beach collapsed in Beirut on June 9. More than 500,000 Syrians, mostly agricultural and construction workers, are believed to be living in Lebanon.

Afghan refugees plucked from the sea

OSLO (R) — A Norwegian freighter plucked 71 Afghan refugees from four rubber rafts found floating in the Baltic Sea early Tuesday, officials said. The refugees — men, women and children — were discovered at about 1 a.m. (2300 GMT) northeast of the German island of Ruegen in the southern part of the Baltic Sea. Danish Sea Rescue officials were quoted as saying by Norway's NTS news agency, Brumbyen Bu, skipper of the Norwegian freighter Dana Baltica, told Norwegian radio the refugees appeared to have been at sea for some time but would not speak about their ordeal. "Some of them are pretty exhausted," he said. "I presume they have been travelling far to get here." The Danish officials said it was not known who was responsible for putting the refugees in the rafts, NTB said. They identified the refugees as Afghan, NTB said. Ingvar Havnen, spokesman for the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, said: "What is important now is that their status is clarified." "If they claim to be political refugees then this issue must be taken up with the U.N. High Commission for Refugees," Mr. Havnen told Norwegian radio.

Algerian arrested in Germany

BONN (AP) — Authorities have arrested an Algerian militant for smuggling automatic rifles to Islamic militants in his homeland, the federal prosecutor said Tuesday. The 29-year-old Algerian, identified as Naser Edine H., was arrested on July 28 in Leipzig, in eastern Germany. He was being held on suspicion of violating weapons laws. The man had been purchasing souvenir Kalashnikov rifles in Hungary, refitting them to full automatic and delivering the guns to sources in France who smuggled them over Morocco to Algeria for the Islamic Salvation Front, prosecutor Rolf Hannich said. More than 30,000 people have died in political murders and fighting between the Islamic extremists and Algerian troops since in 1992 cancelled legislative elections the fundamentalists appeared set to win.

Turkish farmer jailed for 'insulting God'

ANKARA (AFP) — In a twist of events spread out over two years, a farmer in central Turkey got a six-month jail sentence for "insulting God," official sources said Tuesday. In 1993, a court accused a farmer in the town of Ereğli, near Konya, of blaspheming God in a fight with friends. It condemned him to six months in jail, and the equivalent of a \$3.5 fine. An appeals court overturned the sentence, but its ruling was recently cancelled by a higher appeals court, reconfirming the farmer's original punishment.

Locust threaten crops in Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — Swarms of desert locusts have appeared in the agricultural provinces of western Sudan and could threaten crops there, a Sudanese newspaper reported Tuesday. Al Rai Al Akhir paper said locusts had been seen in the provinces of Sodari, in northern Kordofan state and in Darfur. They had appeared on the borders with Chad and swarms had also been seen flying westwards over Khartoum, it added.

2 bombs explode in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (AP) — Two bombs exploded in a shopping centre and at a bank teller causing damage to buildings, the Anatolia News Agency said. No injuries were reported. One bomb went off in a shopping centre of the downtown business districts of Taksim late evening, shattering windows nearby stores, Anatolia said. Unknown assailants hurled a bomb at a Yapi Kredi Bank teller in the business district of Aksaray causing damage to buildings in the area, the agency said. Bank tellers have been the target of bomb attacks over the last three weeks. About 14 banks have suffered attacks this month. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks, but various terrorist groups, including Kurdish separatists, leftist extremists and Muslim militants, have been active for years in this city of 12 million people.

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dar. Amman ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus ... 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus ... 5:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman ... 3:30 p.m. every Sunday

MARKE PRICES

	Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple	700/500
Banana	600
Banana (Mukhamar)	620
Cabbage	120/40
Carrot	220/120
Cauliflower	280/180
Cucumber (large)	

Home News

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Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday receives visiting Sudanese Minister of Interior Tayeb Ibrahim Kheir. (Petra photo)

Sudan, Jordan sign agreement to cooperate in police, security affairs

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Sudan Tuesday signed an agreement paving the ground for cooperation in police and security affairs.

The agreement, which was signed by Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad and his Sudanese counterpart, Tayeb Ibrahim Kheir, also provides for an exchange of expertise in matters pertaining to police women, training of Sudanese cadres employed in security and police work and the interior ministries

and the exchange of expertise in civil defence matters.

Mr. Kheir also Tuesday was received by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and said after the meeting that their discussions covered the cooperative prospects between the interior ministries in both countries.

Sharif Zeid has asserted the need for combined efforts in matters of common interest to be conducted through the interior ministries and police forces in

the two countries in order to help Sudan develop its security services.

The prime minister has said Jordan is willing to offer Jordanian expertise to Sudan in these matters, said Mr. Kheir.

The Sudanese minister also said that his country was counting on Jordan for assistance in the field of security and was hoping to obtain Jordanian training for its police force and security personnel.

Information officials, PNA representative review progress in planned cooperation

Amman (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Information Minister Khalid Karaki Tuesday discussed with Yasser Abed Rabbo, the officer in charge of information in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) scopes of bilateral cooperation in information fields.

In a statement following the meeting, Dr. Karaki said that the meeting falls within the context of ongoing consultation and coordination between both countries.

On the progress made in information cooperation between Jordan and the PNA, Dr. Karaki said the two sides have gone far beyond the stage of coordination and the signing of agreements and protocols.

He said a cultural information agreement between both sides has already been concluded, and that both parties are intensifying efforts to forge closer cooperation between their news



Minister of Information Khalid Karaki discusses cooperation with Palestinian National Authority official Yasser Abed Rabbo (Petra photo)

agencies, radio and television corporations and press and publications departments. Dr. Karaki stressed that Jordan will provide every possible support to the

Palestinians, particularly in the field of advanced technology to enable them to relay the Palestinian national message to the entire Arab nation.

WHAT'S GOING ON

JERASH FESTIVAL

- Eugene Ballet Company of USA at the Royal Cultural Centre, 8:30 p.m.
- Pianist Alberto Pomaranz of Italy at Mount Nebo at 7:00 p.m.
- Performance by Jugnu Group at the Forum (7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.)
- Lunica Folklore Group of Slovakia at the Sound and Light Theatre at 9:00 p.m.
- Performance by Al Andalus De Cadiz of Spain at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m.
- Poetry recital by Haidar Mahmoud, Farouq Shoushah, Mohammad Al Abdullah, Ali Al Shahal, Ahmad Al Musleh, and Mohammad Zaher at Darat Al Funun, (7:00-9:00 p.m.)
- Puppet show for children entitled "The Children of the Village" at the Sound and Light Theatre at 7:45 p.m.
- Moroccan play at Artimes Steps at 9:00 p.m.
- Performance by several Jordanian groups at the Forum (6:30-9:00 p.m.)
- Egyptian circus at the Forum at 9:30 p.m.

FILM

- "The Railway Children" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- Handicrafts and souvenirs at the Amman Citadel (9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.)
- Abstract art by Randa Qassis at the Royal Cultural Centre
- Exhibition of Palestinian products 95 at the Universal Expo Centre, University Road.
- Display of Palestinian heritage at the Professional Associations Complex.
- Paintings and ceramics by Arab artists at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utheina.
- Paintings by Adnan Yahyah at Darat Al Funun.
- Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

Crown Prince opens community youth club

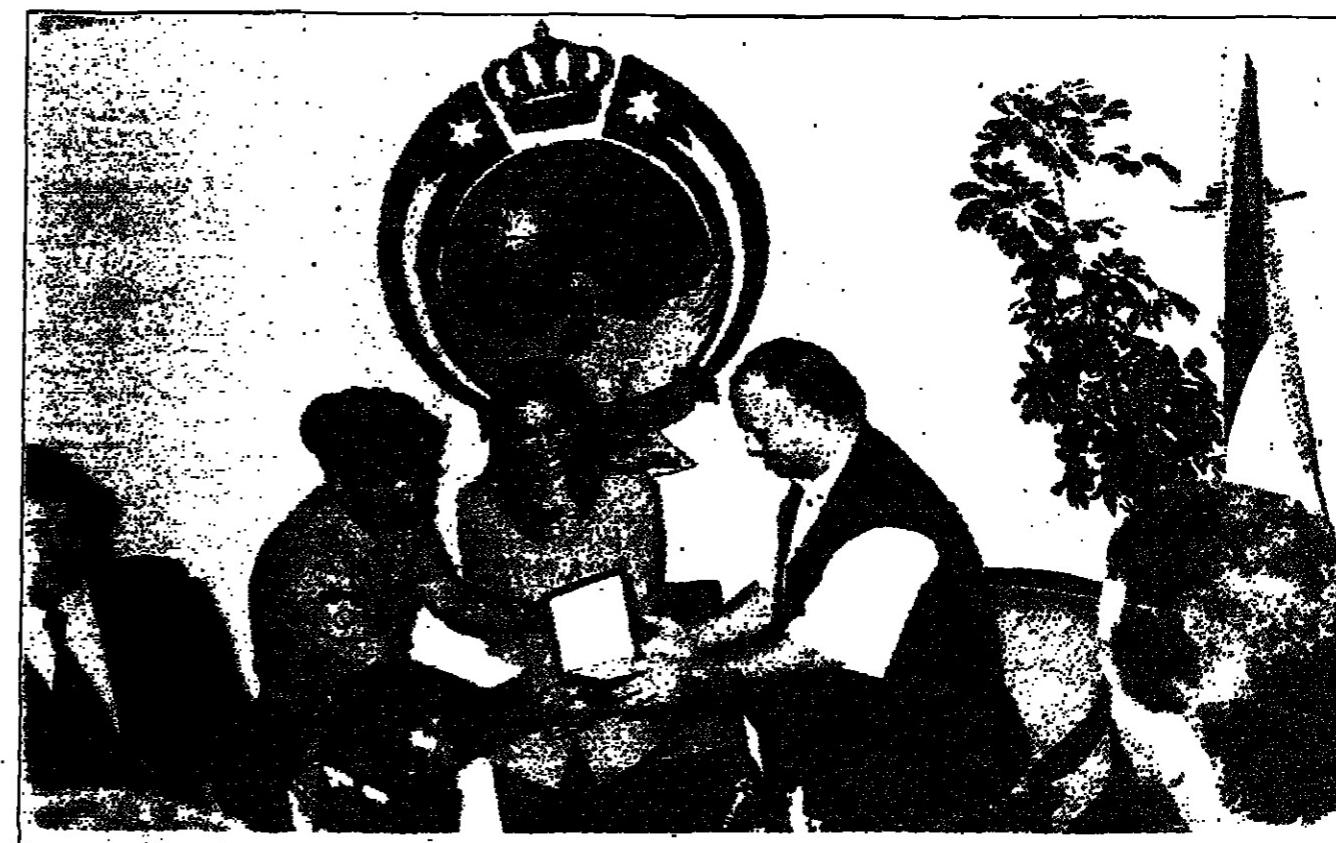
Key to community understanding is moderation — Prince Hassan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday evening inaugurated the Builders of the Future Youth Club, a club that encourages young Jordanians to become involved in urban development schemes and community projects.

At the ceremony attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Rahma, the club's president, Prince Hassan called on Jordanian youths to assume the initiative in the construction and development of their country by being prepared to handle the problems of the coming decade and setting a good example for others in the Arab region.

The Crown Prince stressed the importance of good communication between young people and other members of the community and that a key to the success of such understanding is tolerance and moderation.

The club's vice-president, Abdullah Bashir, said club activities include the collection of donations for families in need, assistance to senior citizens and active participation in collecting contributions for the Hashemite Charity Organiza-



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday evening receives a shield from Her Royal Highness Princess Rahma at the inauguration of the Builders of the Future Youth Club in Amman, of which the Princess is president (Petra photo)

sation which channels aid to victims of war and natural disasters.

The Crown Prince was presented with the club's shield by Princess Rahma.

According to Mr. Bashir, the club, which was originally founded in 1994, aims to encourage the spirit of team work among young Jordanians and to build

bridges of dialogue and understanding among the future generations of young Arabs.

The Crown Prince was

NEWS IN BRIEF

Holiday notice

Amman (Petra) — All Ministries, government departments and public institutions will observe a two-day holiday on Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 9 and 10 to mark the Prophet Muhammad's birthday and the 43rd anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne, which falls on Friday, Aug. 11. The holiday announcement was made through a communiqué issued by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

Ministries asked to prepare reports

Amman (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday requested all ministers to present reports about the projects carried out by their departments as of the end of August 1995, along with reports on the projects their ministries are planning to implement next year. In a circular to the various ministries, Sharif Zeid stressed that only priority projects to be carried out next year should be mentioned in these reports, in order for them to be included in the Speech from the Throne, which His Majesty King Hussein will deliver at the opening of the third ordinary session of Parliament in November.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, at the briefing, given by ministry Secretary General Saleh Tarawneh to Egyptian Labour Attaché Ahmad Munib, discussion also covered the Jordanian-Egyptian labour agreement.

The Cabinet ruled last week that non-Jordanians

wishing to be employed in Jordan should submit a request for employment to the Ministry of Labour in advance of their arrival in Jordan and should their work contracts, endorsed by the labour attachés in Jordanian embassies abroad, to the ministry.

Mr. Abu Sha'ar's statement followed an interview with the Agence France Presse published Tuesday in which he said that the Jordanian labour market was saturated and can take no more workers. He said that all the non-Jordanian Arabs employed around the Kingdom, only 42,000 held valid work permits.

Independent sources estimated that 210,000 more foreigners, mostly Egyptians, are working illegally in the country.

Agence France Presse quoted officials as saying that nearly 1,000 Egyptians enter Jordan daily, in addition to an unknown number of Syrians.

The minister was quoted as saying that the government would not resort to collective deportation as foreign labourers will be given a three-month grace period to adjust to regulations.

But all those caught without work permits after the deadline will be fined and immediately deported, Mr. Abu Sha'ar told the French news agency.

In his statement to Petra Tuesday the minister said that the rate of unemployment among Jordanians was 14 per cent out of the country's total workforce according to 1994 figures.

Germany to finance agricultural, environmental projects

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of JD17.5 million to finance agricultural and industrial development projects in Jordan will be granted by Germany through the German Development Bank, according to two agreements signed in Amman Tuesday.

Under the first agreement the German government will give Jordan a JD15 million soft loan to help finance agricultural projects by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Under the second agreement Germany will give Jordan a JD 2.5 million grant to help the Industrial Development Bank finance environment projects through cooperative efforts with factories and companies in Jordan.

The two agreements were signed by Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reiners.



Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reiners Tuesday sign two agreements whereby Germany will finance development projects in the Kingdom (Petra photo)

Ministry official reviews foreign labour measures with Egyptian attaché

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Labour Tuesday outlined to the Egyptian embassy in Amman a set of government measures taken last week concerning the employment of non-Jordanians in the Kingdom.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, at the briefing, given by ministry Secretary General Saleh Tarawneh to Egyptian Labour Attaché Ahmad Munib, discussion also covered the Jordanian-Egyptian labour agreement.

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Belgian trade fair names Jordan as 'guest of honour'

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has been chosen as the "guest of honour" at an international trade fair to be held in Ghent, Belgium in September, according to an announcement Tuesday by Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Smadi.

Apart from displaying national products, Jordan will provide information on tourism, culture and social life through posters, brochures and a one-day seminar, to be presented by Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Raghib, said Dr. Smadi.

He said the minister will outline the aims of the MENA conference in October and will discuss new incentives and investment laws for encouraging foreign investment in Jordan.

Both the Jordanian Chamber of Industry and Trade and the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) are taking active part in the Ghent fair, Dr. Smadi said.

The Spanish Embassy in Amman

has the pleasure to announce that within the activities of the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts

THE WORLD FAMOUS FLAMENCO DANCE 26-MEMBER GROUP FROM CADIZ

"AL-ANDALUS".

will perform at the South Theatre / Jerash August 1st and 2nd 1995 at 8:30 p.m.

Sri Lanka's Jaffna peninsula appeals urgently for food

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lanka's government agent for the embattled Northern Jaffna peninsula has said there was a "total depletion" of food for civilians and made an urgent appeal to Colombo for supplies to ensure their survival.

His appeal, made in a letter seen by Reuters on Tuesday, called for "very urgent arrangements for the regular supply of food, medicine and other essential items with ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) escort as in the past."

The ICRC says it has been forced to suspend escorting government ships running supplies to the north until guarantees of security from both sides in the conflict are clarified.

In a July 27 letter to President Chandrika Kumaratunga, Jaffna government agent K. Ponnampalam said: "Under the existing grave situation related to 222,000 families and with total depletion of food and essential items, providing the very basic needs to the population is causing me increasing alarm and insecurity."

He also appealed to the government for "stabilised security" for the duration of school examinations which started Monday.

The letter was also sent to army chief General Gerry De Silva and Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Minister M.H.M. Ashraff.

The armed forces last month launched Operation Leap Forward against the Liberation of Tigers of Tamil

Eelam (LTTE) on the Jaffna peninsula. The government says more than 50,000 people have been killed in the ethnic war since it started in 1983.

Tens of thousands of people fled the offensive.

In a five-page report, Mr. Ponnampalam also said the civilian death toll from the bombing of the St. Peter's Church Welfare Centre at Navalai was 112 and the total number of civilian deaths since the launch of the offensive was 234. He said 1,741 people had been wounded.

The church complex bombing, on the first day of Operation Leap Forward on July 9, has been the most controversial incident of the offensive.

Tamil rebels and the ICRC say it was bombed by the air force. The military says it does not know who was responsible for the attack but is investigating.

The agent said there were 80,902 displaced families and 36,949 families had returned to their homes.

He called for the resumption of monthly supplies of 9,000 tonnes of food and essential supplies with ICRC escort. He also said 3,500 metric tonnes of fertilisers was badly needed, as was money to pay compensation to families of the dead and to the wounded.

It was not immediately clear how the figure of 220,000 families facing a "grave situation" was calculated.

An ICRC spokesperson Tuesday said the suspension of escorts for food ships was

expected to be lifted soon once the security situation had been clarified.

The Sri Lankan army Tuesday began a fresh recruitment drive to beef up troops battling Tamil Tiger guerrillas in the northeast, military officials here said.

"We are having a good response so far. We must have more men if we are to defend the country from terrorists," a senior army officer said, referring to the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

However, he declined to say how many would be recruited or how many responded to advertisements inviting applications.

Military sources said the recruitment was aimed at filling up vacancies following the desertion of some 25,000 soldiers in the past 15 years. The army's current strength is put at 100,000 men.

The Tamil Tigers have launched a fresh fund-raising campaign and promised to turn their Jaffna stronghold into a graveyard for Sri Lankan troops, a rebel paper and Tamil sources said Tuesday.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam told Tamil civilians they were seeking 1,000 million rupees (\$20 million) to boost their war effort against security forces, the sources here said.

The LTTE said it wanted to buy more surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) as a defence against aerial bombardments. Tigers have already downed two transport planes and a ground attack aircraft since firing the first missile in

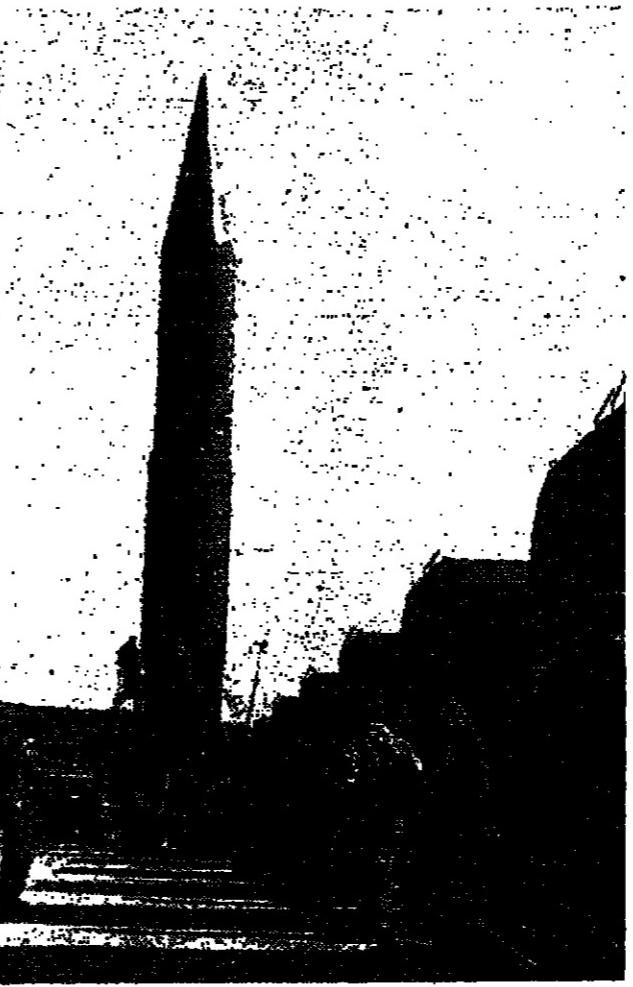
April. "They argue that the government increased a defence levy recently but there is no such tax imposed by the LTTE on Tamils in Jaffna," a Tamil source said. "Now they want Jaffna civilians to make contributions."

He said the LTTE always collected large amounts of money from Tamils abroad but now the campaign has been stepped up following the group's pull out of a truce in April and the escalation of fighting in what is called Eelam War III.

Tigers have also promised a blood bath if security forces launch another offensive against Jaffna, the symbol of Tamil separatism and the capital of a de facto state run by the guerrillas over the past five years.

The latest issue of the LTTE's official paper, the Inside Report, received her Monday said that the army was gearing up for another offensive against Jaffna but warned that the guerrillas were prepared to meet the threat.

"Jaffna will turn out to be the graveyard of Sinhalese soldiers if they launch another offensive and attempt to capture territory. We will fight for every inch of land and create hell for the enemy."



The People's Liberation Army Second Artillery troops drill in missile launching procedure in this photo released by China News Service under condition that the location was not revealed. China issued another stern warning on using military force against Taiwan, with Defence Minister Chi Haotian vowing the army would "not sit idle" if the island moved towards independence (AFP photo)

Chinese military calls for obedience to Jiang

BEIJING (Agencies) — General Liu Huaying, China's most senior military leader, Tuesday ordered the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to support Deng Xiaoping's designated heir, President Jiang Zemin.

"Our army should be guided by the thought of Comrade Deng Xiaoping and act according to the directives of Chairman Jiang Zemin," Gen. Liu wrote in a long article in the official People's Daily.

Liu is vice chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission, which Mr. Jiang, who is also Communist Party secretary general, heads. His article also appeared Tuesday in the party weekly, Outlook.

"Our army must also apply the military strategy and principles of the new period," the general wrote. The term "new period" refers to the transition between the ailing Deng and Jiang.

"We must resolutely respect the fundamental principles of the party's leadership of the army, absolutely defend the central authority led by Comrade Jiang Zemin, and obey the party and the Chinese civil war."

The New Light of Myanmar daily, in an article ostensibly written by U Phyo, a former Buddhist monk turned laymen, said an attempt to dissuade other countries from helping Burma was being made by one person within the country.

The comments, uttered by "just one ordinary individual among the masses," were motivated by malice, the newspaper article said, "despite her usual rhetoric about forgiveness, unity and cooperation."

The individual not only bore malice against the ruling military but was jealous and envious of its achievements, it said.

"It is the 45 million people of Myanmar (Burma) who are going to directly benefit from such foreign assistance," it said.

The student union called the general strike to denounce the dissolution of the House of Representatives on June 13, four and a half years before its term was to end, a student union spokesman said.

Most shops in Kathmandu and elsewhere were closed and roads deserted, police said.

In Kathmandu, only a few ambulances and official vehicles displaying signboards reading "special bus service for international tourists" moved to and from Kathmandu Airport, witnesses said.

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الجريدة العربية الوحيدة التي تنشر في الأردن

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Credibility requires justice

ONCE AGAIN, the United States is facing a test of credibility. In the past it failed many tests when the choice was between asserting its respect for international laws or pleasing Israel and its powerful lobbies in Washington. But this time around one expects the U.S. not to buckle under pressure when it decides on whether to extradite Hamas official Musa Abu Marzouk to Israel. The risk to the peace process if Washington goes against its own laws and delivers him to Tel Aviv is significant, if only in terms of support people have for it. The embarrassment such an act would bring to the Palestinian National Authority, as it tries to assert its authority, would even be more marked. The U.S. has worked hard to make the peace effort viable. Its motivation for doing that goes beyond mere altruism, however. Washington says it has clear interests in removing the shadow of war from the Middle East and ensuring the security of the Jewish state. The latter objective cannot be achieved unless peace prevails in the area. But peace cannot be real unless the Palestinian problem is solved, and that cannot happen if the Palestinian authority is not treated with the regard and respect it deserves. And here is where the U.S. decision about the fate of Mr. Abu Marzouk would matter most.

Israel has no case against Abu Marzouk, something which his American lawyer has asserted. The extradition treaty between the U.S. and Israel does not cover the unproven "charges" which Israel has against the Hamas official. That much was admitted by the Israeli justice minister. Moreover, the U.S. itself has no legal charges that it can use against Abu Marzouk to maintain his detention, let alone extradition to Israel. So from a legal point of view, neither the Americans nor the Israelis have any proof that would incriminate the Hamas political activist or justify his extradition to a country with which his people are not at peace with yet.

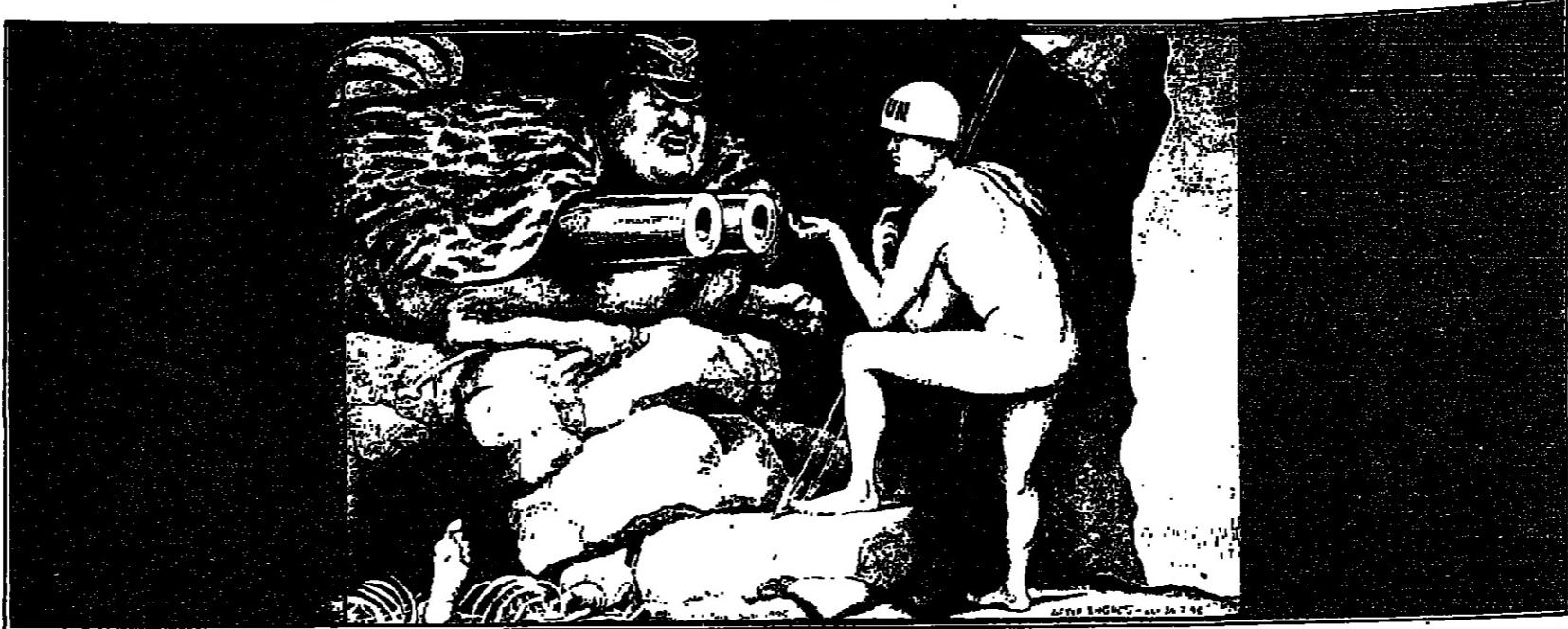
Political and legal considerations will clearly be the determining factor in the decision Washington will finally make on the case. Hence is the expectation that the U.S. will not do something as unsound as handing Abu Marzouk to Israel. Meeting the Israeli request could probably achieve some short-term popularity for the Israeli government. But it will create more suspicions about a cause more important and more worth protecting than internal Israeli politics.

The U.S. does not need to make any new effort to prove its support for Israel. But there is more it has to do to prove its credibility and even-handedness as far as the Arab World is concerned. The case of Abu Marzouk provides a good opportunity for doing so.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JORDAN has once again stressed the need to deal promptly with the situation in Bosnia and stop the aggression, which could spill over to other countries, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. The warning was voiced by his Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who told media representatives that Jordan believed that a real tragedy is threatening the future of mankind and the world order in view of the ongoing and continuing aggression on the Bosnian people. Stressing that Jordan has no interest except to give assistance to the war victims and is motivated only by humanitarian considerations, King Hussein said that indifference to the ordeal of the Bosnian people on the part of the world community in general and the Arab and Islamic nations in particular was bound to further aggravate the situation since this would encourage the Serbs to pursue their aggression, said the daily. The paper said what is happening in Bosnia is the application of the rule of the jungle, total chaos and flagrant violation of international laws and principles. Saying that the United Nations has a serious responsibility towards saving the victims of aggression, the paper said that it is regrettable that failure on the part of the world organisation to carry out its duty has prolonged the ordeal and the suffering of not only the Bosnian people but also the Iraqis before that. It said that in his talks to the media, King Hussein reaffirmed Jordan's commitment towards helping in establishing world peace and security.

A WRITER in Al Dustour Tuesday urged the government to increase the salaries of civil servants in the light of the ever rising cost of living in the country. Mohammad Daoud said that the cost of living has risen sharply, which should prompt the government to increase the rate of annual increments of its employees. He said that the continual rise in the price of various basic commodities makes it imperative on the government to seriously contemplate giving the employees a raise.



Washington Watch

The immigrant story of America

TO UNDERSTAND America is to know that it is a never-ending experiment. It is a unique country in that it is, for the most part, a nation of immigrants. Men and women have come from the ends of the Earth and, within a generation, became Americans.

The assimilation process, however, is never complete. Waves of immigrants have brought diverse groups, with varying cultures, experiences and religions; and becoming an American does not eliminate those differences. The absorption of the new immigrants into the mainstream does not erase or dilute but enriches the texture and the very meaning of America.

This openness to diversity is one of the enduring and positive qualities of the evolving American character. It was this quality which was recognised by France in 1886 when it presented the United States with a bronze statue which adorns New York harbour. Known as the statue of liberty, engraved on the base is a poem in which the statue cries out:

"Give me your tired,
your poor.
Your huddled masses
yearning to breathe free.
The wretched refuse of
your teeming shore
Send us, we beseech you,
the homeless, the tempest-tossed to me.
I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

There is, however, another competing quality. A darker side of America. At various times in our nation's history, during periods of social and/or economic stress, there have been pressures to close the doors to immigrants, to shut out diversity. These periods, as ugly as they have been, have always, in the end, lost out to the open America.

America is today in the midst of a debate between its competing characters. Pressures are mounting to limit or eliminate even legal immigration. Forgetting their own roots and experiences, some descendants of immigrants speak of "America" as their sole property, and seek to deny the right of franchise to those who have come to share in it and bring new

richness to the national identity.

Engaged as we are in this national debate, I had a unique opportunity to reflect on its significance recently while attending a family reunion in Utica, New York. Four generations of Zogbys gathered to celebrate almost a century in America and to reflect on our passage to this new world, our assimilation, our accomplishments and our heritage.

Our story is no different than that of thousands of other ethnic families in America. And yet even in that "commonness" can be found the special character of this country.

Both my father and mother are Zogbys from Kfaray, a small village in the mountains of Lebanon that now has many more descendants living in the U.S. than there are in the ancestral home. The Zogbys in the U.S. came largely from Kfaray, but also from Umm Ash-Shahwan, with a member of them having married descendants of Bakita.

They began to emigrate to this country in the 1890s, with the exodus continuing through the next two decades. My mother, the first in her family to be born in this country, was raised in one of the earliest settlements in Shenandoah — a small coal mining town in the mountains of Pennsylvania. My father was the last of his immediate family to come to the U.S. He was actually an illegal alien who came to America in 1921 at the age of 23 and joined the family of Utica — the largest of the Zogby settlements. In fact, Utica has always had a large Lebanese community, at one point numbering almost 6,000. A branch of the family also settled 1,300 miles away in Mobile, Alabama, where they prospered and spread throughout the southern United States.

As children we never tired to hearing stories of our parents' passage to this country, of their hardships and their wondrous tales of perseverance as they made their way into American life. They, like all of their generation, were an extraordinary and industrious group. With little capital and little or no

education, they started businesses, cared for those who had not yet succeeded, and paved the way for new immigrants who came after them.

They also built institutions to protect their culture and heritage. In coming to Utica or Shenandoah or Mobile they put down roots they believed would remain. They had, in their way of thinking, moved their village and its patterns with the stories of our own accomplishments in America.

Our experiences were no different from those of other Arab Americans; be they Palestinian, Egyptian, Syrian, Jordanian, Yemeni or Moroccan immigrants. Nor, in a real sense, are they different from the experiences and accomplishments of Asian, Latino, Irish, Italian, Greek and many other ethnic Americans. They worked hard, kept their families together, assimilated, welcomed new immigrants into their communities. The process continued.

If there is anything unique in the Arab American experience it is the degree of our extraordinary collective success. According to official U.S. census figures, Arab Americans (from all of the countries in the Arab World) have the highest percentage of self-employment, the highest percentage of professionals (Doctors, lawyers, engineers, etc.), the highest percentage of college degrees, and one of the highest per capita incomes of all ethnic groups in the United States.

We have benefited from America, and America has also benefited from our presence as well. Casey Kasem, the nationally known radio and television personality, and a proud Arab American of Lebanese descent, is fond of pointing out (as he did recently in a special Arab American Institute brochure) the famous Arab Americans who have made significant contributions to American life. Among the most notable are:

— Helen Thomas, Dean of the White House Press corps, who has covered the White House since it was occupied by John F. Kennedy;

— Farouk Al-Baz, a geologist who helped plan all the Apollo moon landings and pioneered the use of space photography to study the Earth;

— The late Danny Thomas, a well-known entertainer who founded the nationally respected St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital;

— Dr. Michael Debaky, a surgeon who invented the heart pump which saves thousands of lives each year.

Where, one might ask, would American life be if the ancestors of the extraordinary people had not immigrated?

That is why the current debate on immigration in the U.S. is so troubling. The proposals to cut legal immigration by 33 per cent or to eliminate work permits for skilled workers in specialty professions now being bandied about by politicians are short-sighted and wrong-headed. To argue, as some do, that the current diversity mix of new immigrants is dangerous because it is only 18 per cent European and therefore "threatens the ethnicity of America" is foolish at best, racist at worst. There simply is no single American ethnicity. America is a rich mosaic of diverse ethnicities.

It is tragic that this dark side of America emerges time and again. It is ironic that one of the leading proponents of ending immigration is presidential candidate Pat Buchanan, himself the descendant of Irish immigrants. For him to call for closing the doors of America, when just a few generations ago doors were closed to his ancestors ("no Irish welcome" was a common phrase in the telecommunications museum will clearly be the oldest request for a telephone line in the world that is still pending).

It is tragic and ironic that one of the leading proponents of ending immigration is presidential candidate Pat Buchanan, himself the descendant of Irish immigrants. For him to call for closing the doors of America, when just a few generations ago doors were closed to his ancestors ("no Irish welcome" was a common phrase in the telecommunications museum will clearly be the oldest request for a telephone line in the world that is still pending). In principle, the system is simple and straightforward. If you are not in a hurry to receive your telephone line, you present an application, supported by every document related to your identity and good standing since your birth certificate, and an attestation from the TCC itself that you do not owe it money already, then you pay the fee, and you wait till Julember. If, on the other hand, you are in a hurry, then, in an act of the purest optimism, you present the same application and supporting documents, you pay triple the fee, and you also wait till Julember. So much for Jordan's ambition to become a regional centre for trade and commerce.

With infinite goodwill, and with a heavy dose of industrial-strength suspension of disbelief, one could accept the argument that connecting a telephone line is a complex affair involving advanced technology, and so it takes time despite the best efforts of an already hard-pressed bureaucratic department. Fine. If the TCC is not up to the task, why does it keep a monopoly on the business?

Then again, one asks, what about post office boxes? They require nothing more elaborate to manufacture and install than early bronze age technology. A village blacksmith, even a particularly dim-witted one, could easily turn them out in sufficient quantities to create a surplus in next to no time. Then one needs only slap a number on the box and place the keys in the eager hands of the patient applicant, or, more likely, as the situation stands, in the hands of his heirs. Why is there a waiting period of several months before a man is allocated a post office box?

Telecommunications are as important to business as the five senses are to man. So, with the Middle East and North Africa summit coming up, does Jordan seriously hope to attract foreign investment by telling international entrepreneurs that their business will have to be born deaf, mute and blind, and manage in that state for at least six months?

By Dr. James Zogby

Why Japan went to war

By Sebastian Moffett
Reuter

TOKYO — Japan's fateful decision to attack the United States in 1941 appeared at the time to be a tactical move in a master plan to dominate the Pacific just as Adolf Hitler wanted to rule Europe.

Historians now think it was simply yet another miscalculation as Japan's war machine blundered forward with no real aim.

At the time, most Japanese thought they were fighting out of self-defence, and many veterans still believe this.

"America forced us to fight the war," said Kenichi Hyuga, secretary of the Japanese Veterans' Association. "We knew that this small country would never win the battle against such a big country."

The allies saw the surprise attack on the U.S. air and naval base at Pearl Harbour as a piece of calculated aggression which they assumed must be part

of a grander scheme, and tried and executed wartime Prime Minister Hideki Tojo and other perpetrators because of this.

Most historians today think the truth is far less clear. They still agree that militarist expansionism was the main cause of Japan's involvement in World War II, but they now think this was more complex and less preconceived than they did in the 1940s.

Instead of a master plan, Japan stumbled into a succession of problems only to find it had no clear way out, they say. Even the great East Asia co-prosperity sphere, Japan's euphemistic term for its empire, was an afterthought.

The Japanese kept moving forward because of pride, a belief in their innate superiority, and because bowing to foreign pressure would have been an intolerable humiliation.

"The view that World War II had been a dark plot against civilisation — all these ideas emerged from

the allied reaction to the acts of Nazi Germany," wrote historian Richard Minear in "Victor's Justice," a book criticising the 1946-1948 Tokyo war crimes trial. "But Japan was not Germany. Tojo was not Hitler. The Pacific war was not identical with the European war."

The war with China that started in 1937 was expected to be wrapped up in a few months, or even weeks.

When it had dragged on for four years, Japanese leaders decided they needed the resources of Southeast Asia, especially oil in Sumatra and Borneo.

Another reason for the advance south was military politics, something which often took priority over everything else.

The army said the threat of the Soviet Union was paramount — an argument for increasing ground forces. The navy said Japan needed to expand southwards for natural resources

— which meant a strong navy to fight Britain and the United States.

Internal politics also applied to decisions such as the one to attack Malaya and the Philippines simultaneously after the raid on Pearl Harbour, followed by a quick seizure of the Dutch East Indies. This was the most difficult of several options, but was taken as the only plan on which both army and navy could agree.

"This decision was typical of the Japanese approach to decision making. Compromises which would enable the services to give an appearance of unanimity were sought more eagerly than hard analysis," wrote Ronald Spector in his book "The Eagle Against the Sun."

The idea to attack Pearl Harbour was formed in desperation after the United States imposed an oil embargo in the summer of 1941.

Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, who devised the

plan, thought the only way to avoid a naval defeat was an extraordinary measure to eliminate the threat of the U.S. Pacific fleet.

"... can see little hope of success in any ordinary strategy," he wrote to the navy minister.

The Tokyo trials charged Japanese leaders with war crimes, aggression and conspiracy to commit aggression. Of 27 surviving defendants, 25 were found guilty of most of the charges against them. Seven were sentenced to death.

The unfairness of the trials in Japanese eyes may have helped poison Japan's relations with Asia by encouraging the idea that what Japan really did wrong in the war was lose.

Japanese conservatives will still not accept that their country did anything in Asia worth apologising for, and a recent parliamentary resolution to mark 50 years since the war's end met with derision in many parts of Asia.

It Occurred to Me...
By Ali Kassay

Ground control to TCC...

Jordan, as everybody knows, is a country that prides itself rightly on its rich heritage and on being the cradle of civilisation. Tourist information brochures constantly remind us that this is the land where successive civilisations, since the earliest hours of history, have flourished and left their mark, and where the past comes to life in a uniquely harmonious blend between the ancient, and the yet more ancient. This healthy passion for antiquity is evidently not limited to those involved in archaeology and tourism. It has clearly permeated to the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC).

Ye of little faith may scoff and sneer. You may protest that this is one of the most inefficient outfits known to man, except when it comes to disconnecting people's telephones for not paying bills that they have not received in the first place. However, those of us who know better and who recognise genuine when we see it, hail the astute long term economic planning behind the actions of this corporation.

For years, the TCC has been working assiduously on a secret project to promote tourism and thus generate revenue. For nearly a decade it has pursued its goal with exemplary determination, and now the day is rapidly approaching when this policy begins to pay off. Soon enough, tourists will flock from the four corners of the globe to feast their gaze on that immortal relic of the glorious days of yore, Jordan's telephone directory, the most outdated in the world.

This enlightened policy for raising cash is also being pursued, from all appearances, in other directions. See how long it takes to have a telephone line connected. The second entry in the telecommunications "museum" will clearly be the oldest request for a telephone line in the world that is still pending.

In principle, the system is simple and straightforward. If you are not in a hurry to receive your telephone line, you present an application, supported by every document related to your identity and good standing since your birth certificate, and an attestation from the TCC itself that you do not owe it money already, then you pay the fee, and you wait till Julember. If, on the other hand, you are in a hurry, then, in an act of the purest optimism, you present the same application and supporting documents, you pay triple the fee, and you also wait till Julember. So much for Jordan's ambition to become a regional centre for trade and commerce.

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Palestinians negotiated with Israel, which agreed to hand over some 160,000 Palestinian refugees. Israel's deputy prime minister

Features

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1995

The conflict over Bosnia is a symptom of something far deeper, writer Vincent Cable

Europe and the U.S.: the wider rift is growing

THE LIFTING by the U.S. Congress of the Bosnian arms embargo opens up a major division between the Western allies. It prompts the question: is this a disagreement over a specific and localised, albeit harrowing tragic, problem or is there a more fundamental disorder?

It may seem odd to pose the wider question. On the surface, the core of the Western world — the Atlantic alliance of the U.S. and Western Europe — has never been stronger. It won the cold war (and the Gulf war). The West dominates global political and economic institutions. Applicants are queuing to join Western clubs: NATO, the EU, the G-7, the OECD. Democratic capitalism is largely championed as a preferred system of political and economic organisation. There is no major, coherent security threat in sight.

The fact that the West is important to influence the Balkan war is not in itself surprising. NATO (let alone EU) structures were not designed with complex ethnic conflicts and local warlords in mind. What is surprising is that close allies in a disciplined and successful alliance should have allowed themselves to be split asunder.

While much abuse has been heaped on the hapless U.N., the main failure has been the inability of the Western allies and objectives.

The U.S. and the Europeans have in effect taken different sides. The Europeans, by trying to stabilise the territorial status quo, has, however unintentionally, given legitimacy to the Serb conquests

and now carry some moral and political responsibility for the terrible consequences of leaving the Muslim population both unprotected and outgunned.

By contrast, the U.S., which has done little, is emerging as the Muslims' champion, the result of instinctive emotional support allied to a shrewd appreciation of Islamic sensitivities.

Now that the U.S. is lifting the arms embargo to level up the killing fields, the war may turn and polarise Western opinion even more.

The last time Britain, in alliance with France, became so detached from the U.S. was at Suez. But, unlike at Suez, there is no longer a deeper relationship to fall back on. The U.S. commitment to Europe, enshrined in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty and in a military presence, has become an expensive chore. The security subsidy to Europe costs perhaps \$30 billion a year. The reasons for keeping over 100,000 troops in Europe (roughly the threshold below which the presence lacks real credibility) are decreasingly obvious to many Americans. The Soviet threat has disappeared and it requires unusual paranoid to see comparable threats to Western Europe is that, at a certain point, the residual U.S. security guarantee no longer holds.

Meanwhile other divisions are opening up. In the Middle East the U.S. is pursuing a "dual containment" strategy against both Iraq and Iran. Whether this is wise is debatable — but what matters more is the inability of the

West to agree and maintain a consistent position. The strategy is being undermined by France in Iraq and general European disarray for the Iran boycott. The fact that disagreement is expressed through an opportunistic pursuit of contracts — by Total in Iran, for example, allegedly supported by the French government — adds, in U.S. eyes, economic injury to political insult.

The idea that Western capitalism could be undermined by trade and competition for markets is a very old one and seemed to be as dead as Lenin, who promoted it. And at first sight, the risk of trade warfare between the Western allies does appear remote.

There has just been a ground-breaking set of liberalising agreements under the Uruguay Round which create discipline for an increasingly globalised system.

Yet the new World Trade Organisation framework is in serious trouble even before it has been properly established.

The problem is not, or not yet, about traditionally divisive issues such as agriculture. Rather it is over the whole principle of multilateralism: whether global disciplines should prevail over national, unilateral action.

Specifically, the U.S. is insisting on the right to an aggressive, unilateral approach to forcing open Asian markets. The Europeans have found themselves in the unaccustomed position of being virtuous guardians of the multilateral system, even to the extent of supporting Japan. The argument runs deeper

than trade tactics. Some of the luminaries of the U.S. administration and in Congress explicitly describe their relations with Western Europe and Japan as akin to an economic war. Such attitudes can become contagious. There is already a barely suppressed conflict resulting from competition between Western governments to help their firms win big infrastructure projects which threatens to destroy carefully crafted agreements to stop subsidy warfare.

It could be said in a response that there is nothing new to all of this. There have long been disagreements among the Western allies. France has always been a loose, nationalist, cannon. Trade frictions have been endemic in the post-war system but haven't stopped the

process of integration. Yet serious policy-makers on both sides of the Atlantic are now clearly alarmed.

There is a particular danger for Britain. For more than a generation, Britain's external identity has been defined as both European and transatlantic. If the Western alliance fragments, that will no longer be possible. A large and influential segment of opinion would opt for a deeper involvement with Europe, another, particularly on the political right, would be more at home with the Anglo-Saxon world. The tensions such a divide could create have been demonstrated already in the destructive debate over Europe. They would be multiplied many times once it sank in that the old transatlantic ties had snapped.

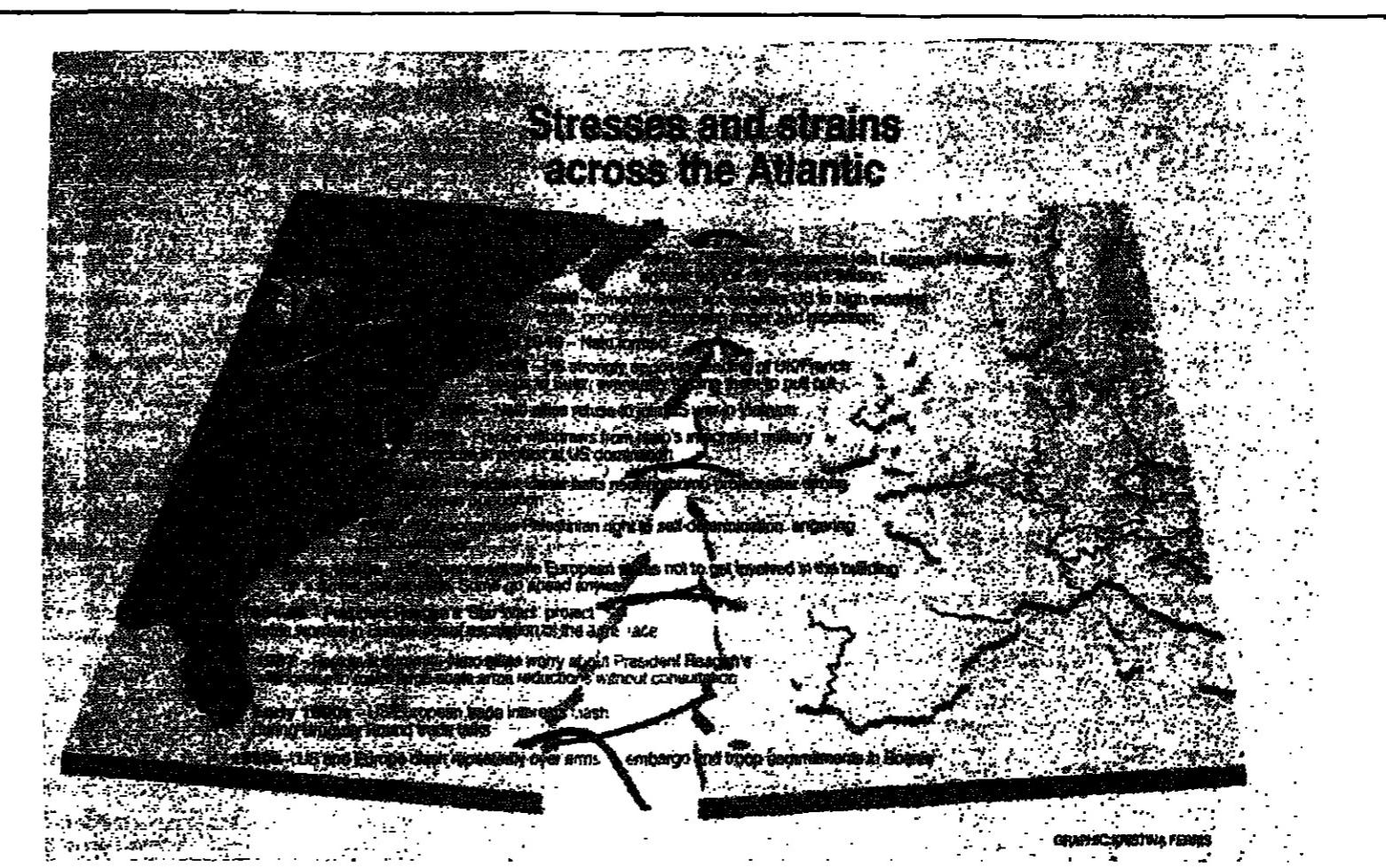
There are two interpretations of the growing rift. One is that there is an institutional deficit, leading to suggestions — particularly from Germany — for a new North Atlantic Community to buttress the old relationships. But it is not obvious why this is necessary. Formal and informal institutions abound, starting with NATO, the World Trade Organisation and the OECD. Specific proposals are being made for a "dialogue" between groups of transatlantic policy-makers and for trade discussions on technical standards: valuable but hardly earth-shattering stuff.

A second explanation concerns personalities.

Some superior Europeans look despairingly at the way Clinton foreign policy is made: on the hoof, in response to public opinion polls. Congressional press

obligations and increasingly demanding domestic constituencies. Voters want to "do something" about overseas conflicts without putting their own troops at risk. They support the broad abstractions of international economic cooperation while opting out of specific obligations. Unless a more austere, disciplined and self-sacrificing approach can be sold to Western public opinion, the strategic and economic underpinnings of the West will unravel much as they have in the former East. The process is already beginning.

The writer is head of the International Economics Programme at the Royal Institute of International Affairs. The article is reprinted from the *Independent*.



Former U.S. president shuttles to African capitals seeking peace

By Eileen Alt Powell
The Associated Press

KHARTOUM — Jimmy Carter leans back in his seat aboard a borrowed U.N. plane high over Sudan and ticks off a list of perceived world rogues — North Korea, the Bosnian Serbs, the government in Khartoum, Cuban leader Fidel Castro, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"The United States has a disturbing inclination to deal with controversy in a black and white way," Mr. Carter says. "We and our allies are right and are angels, the other side is totally wrong and devils."

Mr. Carter is looking for the grays, the ways in which a former U.S. president and a devout Christian imbued with a sense of duty can intervene to resolve the world's conflicts. His latest mission, which ended Sunday, took him to Sudan, where an intractable civil war has taken the lives

of more than 1.3 million people in the last 12 years. The West has all but abandoned the place, eliminating most aid to the Islamic government in Khartoum and providing the barest of assistance to the insurgent south.

Mr. Carter in March won a four-month ceasefire in the conflict, a breathing space to get health programmes restarted to eradicate debilitating guinea worm disease and river blindness and vaccinate children.

He hoped this trip would not only extend the truce, but get Khartoum and the rebels to agree to negotiate a lasting peace. He did not get a firm commitment on the ceasefire, due to expire at the end of July, but he did win acceptance of "a very carefully worded invitation" for opening peace talks.

Although he briefs the Clinton administration about his activities, he does not act as an official government envoy. In fact, there are some in Washington who worry his actions inter-

fere with American policy and make the White House appear ineffective in its foreign policy.

Mr. Carter feels differently. "When you have people suffering intensely because of a deadlock... they (the U.S. government) should on occasion turn to a person like me who has access to both sides."

He has used that access to bring North Korea to the negotiating table and help pacify Haiti. He also won a short-lived ceasefire in Bosnia, but both the Bosnian government and the White House accused him of not knowing enough about the complicated situation.

He says his style is to put the onus squarely on the shoulders of the belligerents. At the start of his tour in Khartoum, he told Mr. Al Bashir: "You can make my trip a very wonderful trip. Or you can make it a disappointment."

Mr. Carter still travels with secret service protection, and had at least a half-dozen security officers with him in Africa.

On plane rides, he sits with his wife Rosalynn, and sometimes kicks off his penny loafers and puts his feet up to nap through long hauls. His son, Chip, 45, an international business consultant, also was along on this trip.

Although Mr. Carter occasionally dons safari suits, he favours long-sleeve dress shirts rolled up toward the elbow and tan slacks.

Mr. Carter says his work brings satisfaction and some unexpected offers. On a recent visit to Nigeria, for example, he was offered land to build a palace.

"I told them that if I ever build a palace, it will be there," Mr. Carter chuckled.

Does he never get frustrated?

"I have to be optimistic," he said. "In the end, the alternative is to give up. And I'm not about to do that."

'Talks going in circles'

(Continued from page 1) resources and voting locations for east Jerusalem's 160,000 Palestinians.

Israel's deputy army chief of staff, Matan Vilnai, told a parliamentary committee on Tuesday his troops could complete redeployment by April 1994. But army officials said the statements were made on a purely technical basis.

Palestinian negotiators say that Israel, which had earlier agreed to hand over control of West Bank villages to Palestinian police, now insists on maintaining "over-riding" responsibility for security in these areas.

Palestinians also want Israel to pull out of Hebron, home to 100,000 Arabs and some 100 Jewish settlers.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rabin has postponed a cabinet meeting intended to ratify the transfer of civil powers to the PLO in the West Bank, his spokeswoman said Tuesday.

The debate, which was

Hamas

(Continued from page 1)

the Israeli authorities, we would consider this a hostile act against all Arabs and Muslims. You will bear the consequences of such an act.

"We demand the immediate release of Abu Marzouk. Otherwise the United States is putting itself in open confrontation with the Arab and Islamic peoples."

A leaflet given to the Associated Press on Tuesday claimed that a bus bombing that killed six Israelis last week was carried out by Hamas.

The authenticity of the claim could not immediately be confirmed.

Phone calls to the AP and other media organisations on June 24, the day of the Tel Aviv bombing that killed six Israelis, also claimed responsibility on behalf of Hamas, but the calls were not followed up by the usual confirmations, including the release of the suicide bomber's name.

Turkey insurers face major flood payouts

Reuters on Thursday.

"If the flood damages had not occurred, 1995 would have been a wonderful year for the sector," said Mr. Nomer, also chairman of Turkish Insurance and Reinsurance Companies Union.

Sabah Yavincilik Assasah is one of Turkey's leading media groups, suffered significant damages to its fully-insured facilities when a nearby stream overflowed.

The non-life insurance network of the Istanbul stock exchange was also slightly damaged by the rainfall, the heaviest for July in 62 years of recorded weather in Istanbul, the country's largest city with a population of some 10 million.

The insurance sector in Turkey saw premiums jump by 100 per cent in the first half of 1995, after last year's drop in real terms because of an April 1994 austerity package that followed a severe financial crisis.

Letter from Ramallah Fake realities

By Nigel Parry

but had hopes for at least some relief from the tedious task of their daily, unpopular patrols; notable for their failure to impress anyone and unfathomable in that no one needs this protection in what is an exclusively Arab town with no settler population.

Relief for all came in the form of two flying bottles, falling with tinkling, musical crunches pitifully far short of their target. If the youths filled them with water first, they might go further and hit harder but of course there has been no water in much of the centre of town for some weeks. Two soldiers lop off the throwers and reappear five minutes later, dragging two teenagers to yesterday's burnt tyres.

My house is about 200 yards away down the Bir Zeit road, forcing me to have to pass through the Manara, a tower once rose from the roundabout's sculptured gardens until bulldozed by the Israelis in the 1980s to make way for military vehicles. Now thick smoke rises from the Manara, a cry of the times from the traffic islands stained with the blackened rubber and steel radicals left by yesterday's burnt tyres.

Having watched similar exchanges countless times before, an observer is driven to conclude that there is a script being followed, that the purpose being achieved is one that exists only in the subconscious — a primal release from the monotony of a town with no regular cinema, four restaurants and a million monochrome burger bars. Everyone seems to be performing and it is all somehow not quite real; the costumes and sets are fantastic, but it is unarguably B-movie acting.

The two teenagers look like Arab-Americans judging by the baseball caps (everyone wears a costume here), who perhaps arrived in Ramallah a month ago. Today they are playing intifada. As they are being set upon by the youths, a woman in an Islamic headscarf walks past me with her two children. A few seconds later, a female American voice says: "Look kids, you saw it on the TV, now you are seeing it again in reality." I turn round to see the same woman and kids. She probably never wore a hijab in her life before she came here. I restrain myself from running her day by pointing out that both this and TV lack some basic elements of reality. After a while,

everyone goes home, to return an hour later, of course, for a rerun.

More than anything, it is my annoyance at the game that somehow got me out of bed and into the shower the morning the gunfire beat my alarm clock to it. As I sat down to breakfast, my flatmate arrived back. It is clear from his story that there is a different quality to the events today, soldiers beating old women's heads against walls for one thing. Somehow, there has been a subtle transformation from play war.

In the few days since then, the horror stories have continued to come in, as friends stop by our house, in its central location, within earshot of the sporadic sound grenades and rubber bullet canisters going off. Another old woman was caught either throwing rocks or breaking them for the youths to throw, so the soldiers put her on the ground and smashed one of her legs until her bone gave way. A boy in his early teens was beaten savagely to the ground with batons wielded by several soldiers. Another boy, arrested and thrown in a jeep, was kicked in the head repeatedly by two other soldiers. Since the first caught, dozens of people have been arrested. Most will be taken to the tents in Ramallah prison, beaten up a little more and then released. Foot patrols of soldiers stalk the streets. In some areas of Ramallah, there have been what amounts to running battles carrying on late into the night between local youths and the army. So far, live ammunition has only been shot into the air. Today the imam in the nearest mosque is screaming himself to an early coronary. Ramallah's shopkeepers have decided an open-ended strike starting next week and Hamas has distributed leaflets calling for another intifada. So, this is reality? I'm beginning to wonder if I don't prefer the movies.

After 5-year absence, Iraq still haunts world oil market

LONDON (R) — Five years on, Iraq's ban from world market after its invasion of Kuwait still has an unsettling influence on the oil price.

Many market analysts think prices are unlikely to make any sustained recovery until Iraq returns to the ranks of major world oil exporters.

Oil traders waking up on Aug. 2, 1990, to hear that Iraqi forces had crossed the border of fellow OPEC member Kuwait faced the loss of more than four million barrels per day (b/d) of world oil supplies from the two countries.

Prices soared to \$40 a barrel, a level not seen since the 1973 Arab oil embargo.

But markets quickly dropped from the fear-inspired highs when it was felt that Iraq posed little threat to oilfields in nearby Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer.

Kuwait, producing two million barrels a day or more, has long since returned to the world market.

But speculation over when the United Nations may lift sanctions to allow Iraq's return to the oil market has had

a bearish impact on prices, oil analysts and traders say.

The war ceasefire set terms under which a ban on Iraqi oil exports should be lifted when it meets U.N. demands on weapons.

"Iraq certainly acts as a long-term constraint on the oil price," said economist Geoff Pyne at finance house UBS in London. "You have to ask yourself where 2.5 million barrels a day of (Iraqi) oil is going to go."

Any oil price forecast has to allow for the Iraq factor. When will the U.N. embargo be lifted? how much will Baghdad be able to export? will OPEC handle the transition smoothly?

"Ever since the war ended, Iraqi oil has always been expected back in somewhere between six and 18 months' time," said an oil analyst in London. "It's been a constantly depressing factor."

Since the Gulf war ended in February 1991, benchmark North Sea Brent crude oil has moved in a broad range between \$13 and \$21 a barrel. Current prices are nearer the bottom of the band at \$16.

"There's little prospect of oil prices rising significantly until Iraqi oil is back on the market — the theory is that it can't go up until Iraq comes back," the oil analyst said.

"As soon as the green light is given for Iraqi exports, it will be weak for three to six months but you won't get a major recovery in oil prices until Iraqi oil is back," he added.

Traders say the spectre of renewed Iraqi exports constantly helps blunt any threat of supply shortages.

"Iraq hangs like a cloud over the market. There's no need to buy more oil than is needed for normal operational reasons if you don't think the price is going to rise," a refinery trader said.

Fast-rising supplies from non-members of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in the past two years and OPEC's consequent impatience over its loss of market share to rival producers only serve to exacerbate the Iraqi factor.

Iraq's absence has left OPEC in a quandary. Happy to raise output in 1990 to make up for lost Iraqi and

oil prices rising significantly until Iraqi oil is back on the market — the theory is that it can't go up until Iraq comes back," the oil analyst said.

"OPEC finds more and more difficulty in reacting to any circumstances and for me, it's very hard to conceive how it would cope with the return of Iraq," says Mr. Pyne of UBS.

But the Iraqi invasion had one useful side-effect, market analysts say. The crisis was the first for adolescent oil futures markets. Many oil traders learnt an expensive lesson in a market which saw prices move as much as \$10 a barrel in a day.

"I think there has been a change of psychology in the futures market," Mr. Pyne said.

"Prices used to react to any news coming out. What people look for now is some actual threat to supply. They want to see the realistic possibility of a real fundamental change in the market before they react," he pointed out.

Kuwait oil, most members are now producing at capacity. Cutting back when Iraq returns is not an appealing prospect, particularly when non-OPEC members are soaking up all the extra world demand.

The world's largest crude-oil producer and exporter has assumed an oil price of \$14 in its 1995 budget but prices have so far exceeded that level by nearly \$3 because of unusual discipline by OPEC producers.

According to Britain's Barclay's Bank, the Saudi gross domestic product (GDP) was projected to grow by 1.5 per cent in real terms in 1995 and by more than two per cent in the following year if oil prices remained stable.

In nominal terms, the Saudi GDP retreated by around 0.8 per cent to \$120 billion in 1994 from \$121 billion in 1993 after oil prices dropped to \$15.5 from \$16.33. The decline was in the public sector as the private sector grew by nearly five per cent in 1994.

It recalled a growth rate of as high as nine per cent in 1990, when crude prices shot over \$30 and Saudi Arabia had forecast a further decline in 1995 to \$119 billion but

Higher oil prices reviving Saudi economy in 1995

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Saudi Arabia's economy will likely rebound into positive growth in 1995 as oil prices overshoot their forecast level in the state budget and the private sector gained momentum, bankers said.

"Surely, there will be a positive growth rate in real terms this year. But how much the GDP will grow depends on the movement of oil prices in the second half," a Saudi banker told AFP by telephone from Riyadh.

"So far this year, prices have increased by more than 15 per cent and if they maintained their current level, then the economy would perform better. Another factor is that the private sector is expected to record similar growth rates as last year due to a surge in its investment in the kingdom," he pointed out.

In its sixth five-year plan announced last month, Saudi Arabia set an annual growth target of 3.8 per cent but it did not give a breakdown for each year. The high rate was apparently based on better performance by the private sector.

Oil exports provide nearly 90 per cent of Saudi Arabia's income and weak prices have created deficits in its budget and balance of payments and sharply slowed down its economy after rocketing growth rates in the early 1980s.

In nominal terms, the Saudi GDP retreated by around 0.8 per cent to \$120 billion in 1994 from \$121 billion in 1993 after oil prices dropped to \$15.5 from \$16.33. The decline was in the public sector as the private sector grew by nearly five per cent in 1994.

Bankers in Saudi Arabia had forecast a further decline in 1995 to \$119 billion but

their assumption was based on low oil prices.

"Our projections early this year were that oil prices would be lower than in 1994. But their improvement changes the whole picture," a banker said.

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It recalled a growth rate of as high as nine per cent in 1990, when crude prices shot over \$30 and Saudi Arabia had forecast a further decline in 1995 to \$119 billion but

forecast in the Saudi 1995 budget.

Apart from boosting the economy, such an improvement could restore balance to the Saudi budget for the first time in nearly a decade, the bankers said.

The Barclay's Bank had a similar view. "The oil price stabilisation will finally lead to a balance between the revenues and spending," it said.

Saudi Arabia, which produces around 12 per cent of the world's total crude supplies, projected a budget deficit of \$4 billion in 1995 compared with around \$10.65 billion in 1994. The deficit was lower because expenditure was cut to around \$40 billion from \$42.6 billion and revenues were forecast to rise to \$36 billion from \$32 billion.

The kingdom's actual deficit hit a record \$33.6 billion in 1991 because of huge payments for the liberation of Kuwait. Over the past decade, the shortfall has been financed through domestic borrowing and withdrawal from overseas assets.

Road to Riviera and Maastricht is paved with tax for French

PARIS (AFP) — The first day of August marks the main holiday month here, a time for the French to live up to their image, to eat and drink well, to flit on the beaches: to take the Riviera road!

This year, when the clock struck midnight, the taxman increased the cost of all these pleasures with a wave of his wand as part of a crisis plan to reduce the budget deficit and to begin to pay for past excesses in state spending.

The rate of sales tax on restaurant meals and wine, hotel bills, petrol, and on most goods such as new cars, was hiked from 18.6 to 20.6 per cent. This is an increase of two points or of 10.75 per cent in the rate of tax.

For the French or foreign family heading south to the sun, the price of a litre of super, unleaded petrol rose before dawn by 10 centimes to 5.73 francs (\$1.20).

In the area around Paris the price of public transport

was increased by 4.4 per cent on average.

The price of cigarettes was upped by about six per cent, and the average family will now pay 55 francs per year more than previously for electricity.

The tax on food remains at 5.5 per cent.

There are two main reasons for this sweep of the taxman's hand in the middle of the summer: A budget deficit which has defied constraint and the corset for deficits set by the Maastricht treaty for economic and political union in Europe.

The new conservative government installed following the election of Jacques Chirac as president in May lost little time in sounding the alarm about the state of the books left by the previous right-wing administration headed by Edouard Balladur: A budget deficit set to amount to 322 billion francs (\$67.5 billion instead of 275 billion francs as forecast.

Describing this as a "calamity," Mr. Juppe said in June that one factor was a shortfall of more than 15 billion francs in revenue. "How is this possible when the economy is growing at three percent?" he enquired.

Expenditure had been understated to the extent of 38 billion francs, of which 11.7 billion was related to the cost of interest on the public debt.

Mr. Juppe said that the true budget deficit would have been 371 billion francs this year, or 15 per cent more than the target set by Mr. Balladur.

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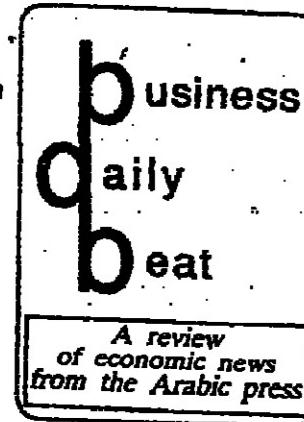
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Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1995 9



A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Some old buildings at heart of Amman to be demolished

Having obtained court orders to evacuate some 15 stores, landowners in downtown Amman are set to begin demolishing old buildings after tenents begin evacuating them this month. Tenants of the stores have put up sales signs because of the evacuation. A court order was also obtained by the landlord of the building known as the Central Cafe' (opposite Jabi Restaurant) barring the cafe' management from seating clients on the roof terrace overlooking Amman's main downtown street (Al Dusour).

LA VACHE Qui Rit triangular cheese made in France and weighing 280 grammes is to be sold to consumers for 780 fils. According to prices fixed by the Ministry of Supply, the carton weighing 400 grammes carries a JD 1.150 price tag (Al Ra'i).

TRANSPORT MINISTER Samir Kawar said in a reply to a query by a deputy that the Unified Company for Organising Land Transport was not a public sector company but a private shareholding limited company. He said it was turned to a public shareholding company to widen the investment base and enable clearing and transport companies to become shareholders. Another reason was to raise the capital of the company to JD 5 million, to enable it to set up stations for assembling and servicing trucks at selected sites on the Kingdom's main roads (Al Dusour).

IN A REPLY to a deputy's query, Public Works and Housing Minister Abdul Razzaq Nsouli said the ministry would be improving the Yajouz-Jubeihah road and the Shafa Badran road to make it a four-lane highway, but the implementation would be done in stages depending on the financial allocations. He pointed out that bidders were invited to improve a 3-kilometre stretch of the road from Awajan junction and work would start after awarding the tender. Dr. Nsouli added that, in cooperation with the Municipality of Greater Amman, the ministry was taking measures to improve the Yajouz-Shafa Badran/Applied Sciences University road, starting next month. He also said that a local consultant was conducting a study to choose an appropriate way to connect the Yajouz-Shafa Badran road with the Sukhneh-Jerash road. The study is expected to be completed by May 1996 (Al Dusour).

JORDAN CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) One partner will pass along with your baby, but don't expect your to get bigger in bigwigs.

O: (July 22 to Aug 10) This is a good day for your tasks complete and not go any impossible at all. Be cooperative and follow your loved ones.

RGO: (August 21 to September 19) Early in the month, make the arrangements for a good time at home, but don't be a vagrant. Enjoy your time with your loved ones.

IRA: (September 20 to October 18) Be more open and steer clear of side contacts who are self-seeking.

ORPIO: (October 19 to November 17) You will be able to handle business very well during the month, but avoid social evening.

GITTARIS: (November 18 to December 16) Concentrate on how to make more money during the day so that you feel lack of enthusiasm.

PRICORN: (December 17 to January 15) Personal aims will have every opportunity to gain this evening.

CARIUS: (January 16 to February 14) Use more practical methods in dealing with your affairs today and be careful in motion, especially this evening.

ICESI: (February 15 to March 20) This is a personal wish to have everything go well, but try to concentrate and be fair to others, but try to concentrate on this evening.

Tunnel under Suez Canal to fully reopen Oct. 6

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt will soon finish Japanese-financed repairs to a tunnel under the Suez Canal, which will reopen to full 24-hour service on Oct. 6, the official news agency MENA has reported.

The repairs to Ahmad Hamed tunnel, begun in 1992, cost \$62 million and were financed by a Japanese grant.

The tunnel, named after an Egyptian general killed nearby in the 1973 war with Israel, measures 1.64 kilometres in length and lies metres underwater, connecting the Sinai peninsula to the rest of Egypt.

Cairo has launched a major project for industrial and tourist development in Sinai, returned by Israel in 1982. It plans to attract some three million inhabitants to the region, currently home to 160,000 people, over the next 23 years.

The president of the Suez Canal company, Mohammad Ezzat Adel, quoted by MENA, said the construction of a bridge over the canal is vital to absorb increased traffic to and from the peninsula.

Mr. Adel ruled out building a second tunnel, saying it would impede future plans to deepen the canal. Egypt and Japan have begun studies for a bridge high enough to allow shipping to pass underneath.

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Walt Disney to buy Capital Cities/ABC for \$19b

LOS ANGELES (R) — The Walt Disney Co said late Monday it will pay \$19 billion for Capital Cities/ABC Inc., surprising both Hollywood and Wall Street with a deal that creates the world's largest entertainment company.

In a stunning announcement, Walt Disney Chairman Michael Eisner said Capital Cities, owner of the ABC television and radio networks, will become a wholly owned unit of Disney.

"Think of all the things we can do together," Disney chairman and chief executive officer Michael Eisner told a news conference, laying out a scenario of Disney's cable channel combining with Capital Cities' ESPN sports channel to provide a service to beamed into China and India.

Disney has long coveted a network as a way to reach the mass market. While most observers had expected Disney to make a bid for CBS Inc., the deal with ABC is fitting in light of Disney's long relationship with the network.

Disney also gains interests in cable stations like ESPN, the all-sports network, and several successful publications.

The two companies had combined annual revenues in 1994 of approximately \$16.5 billion.

The combined enterprise will be known as the Walt Disney company and be led by Mr. Eisner, who will con-

tinue as chairman and chief executive officer. Mr. Murphy will join Disney's board of directors.

The takeover, the biggest so far in 1995 and among the largest ever, comes less than 10 years after Capital Cities acquired ABC for \$3.5 billion.

Analysts say the announcement shows the importance networks will play in the converging entertainment world of television, film, computers

and interactive devices.

"The broadcast networks, despite all the news of their demise, continue to be the strongest platform for attracting mass audiences and as a result the strongest platform for attracting mass advertisers," said management consultant Michael Wolf of Booz, Allen and Hamilton.

Once regarded as a dying breed, networks are suddenly back in demand, with experts predicting all three major

U.S. networks could be in new hands before the end of next year.

According to industry sources, Westinghouse is close to buying CBS for around \$5 billion. Shares of CBS rose \$1.875 to \$77.625 after the Disney news. NBC, which is owned by General Electric O. (G.E.) has been frequently mentioned as a possible merger candidate but has thus far remained with G.E.

Bank of Japan makes emergency loans to failed credit union

TOKYO (AFP) — The Bank of Japan provided emergency credit to the failed Cosmo Credit Cooperative Tuesday in the first such move for 30 years despite a cold shoulder from the finance ministry.

The bank acted as depositors continued to withdraw savings and amid press criticism of indecision in handling this example

of weakness in the banking system here.

A central bank official declined to disclose the amount provided to the Cosmo which was shut down by the Tokyo metropolitan government on Monday after an unprecedented run on its deposits.

"The amount reflected deposits withdrawn from Cosmo Credit today," the official said.

Withdrawals were estimated by media reports to amount to 19.2 billion yen (\$220 million) late Tuesday. This was far less than the figure of 60 billion yen on Monday but took the total of funds withdrawn to 18 per cent of deposits.

The finance ministry said in June that it would invoke the article in emergency cases only as part of wider measures to deal with chronic bad debt problems inherited in the late 1980s. These are estimated to amount to nearly 50 trillion yen.

The Bank of Japan's move came despite an assertion by Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemoto earlier Tuesday that it was best that the central bank and finance ministry "do not play an active role" in solving problems at Cosmo.

In Japan, the prudential supervision of credit unions falls under the jurisdiction of local governments rather than of the central bank.

But in a statement released Monday the Bank of Japan said that "all necessary steps" including the exten-

sion of loans under section 25 of the Bank of Japan law, would be taken to ensure that adequate funds were available to meet withdrawals.

Under this section of the law — last used when Yamai Securities Co. Ltd. was rescued from bankruptcy in 1965 — the central bank may provide unsecured loans to maintain stability of the financial system.

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Sex, drugs and money top the IAAF agenda

GOTHENBURG. Sweden (AFP) - Sexual politics, drug bans and prize money will top the agenda here this week, as Primo Nebiolo seeks a fifth mandate as president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF).

The sports supreme body, the IAAF council, is to be re-elected at a congress meeting on Wednesday and Thursday, the eve of the nine-day extravaganza of the world championships.

Nebiolo, who took over from Dutchman Adrien Paulein in 1981, has taken world athletics from relative poverty to position of considerable wealth. The 1992-96 budget totalled \$120 million.

The championships which officially open on Friday are the fifth to be held since 1983, and they now rank third behind football's World

Cup and the Olympic Games for its global TV audience.

Not surprisingly, the 72-year-old Italian who has engineered this transformation is standing unopposed.

For despite a limited amount of opposition led by Ollie Cassell, head of USA Track and Field, most regional officials are grateful for the way that Nebiolo has brought money into the sport.

Maurice Nicholas, honorary secretary of the Asian Amateur Athletic Association said: "In the old days, I had to find my own funds. Now the IAAF gives us an administration grant running our office. With money we can do things."

Women are to be the next recipients of Nebiolo's generosity.

The men-only council is set to increase from 25 to 27 members, with the two extra

seats reserved for women. Nebiolo, who has described the proposal as "historic", sees it as a way of ending sexual discrimination in athletics officialdom.

However, the idea has not been universally popular with the existing council.

Eight candidates are standing, including three Olympic champions — Romanian high-jumper Iolanda Balas, Polish sprinter Irena Szewinska and 1984 Olympic gold medallist Moroccan 400 metre hurdler Naval Al Moutawakil.

Drugs will also be on the agenda, ostensibly to match the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in recommending that the current four-year ban for steroid-class drugs be reduced to a minimum of two years.

The IOC is keen to have a uniform punishment for drug abuse in sport, but is

also trying to avoid federations being hauled through the courts.

Legislation in some countries puts a two-year ceiling on suspensions, while a handful of athletes — such as German sprinter Karin Krabbe and American 400m world record holder Butch Reynolds — have challenged IAAF rulings in civil courts.

Not on the agenda, but almost certain to be discussed, will be British runner Diane Modahl. The 1990 Commonwealth 800m champion had a four-year ban overturned on appeal last week by the British Athletics Federation — a verdict which has not gone down well with the IAAF.

Her case was referred on Monday to arbitration, with the IAAF adding a stinging footnote that it "was not satisfied with the appeal panel's decision" and had ordered a third test on Modahl's sample.

Modahl's defence in London had successfully argued that high levels of the male hormone testosterone could have been caused by the unrefrigerated storage of her sample at a laboratory in Lisbon (see separate story).

However, the meeting will not be complete without talk of money.

At the Stuttgart World Championships in 1993, winning athletes were rewarded with Mercedes-Benz cars instead of cash. However, their managers insisted that things would be different in Gothenburg.

They're not. Gold medalists will again be handed the keys to a gleaming German saloon, but the push now is to finalise cash prizes for the 1997 World Championships in Athens.

IAAF under fire over Modahl decision

LONDON (AFP) - British athletic chiefs on Tuesday criticised the IAAF, the world governing body, for its decision to take the Diane Modahl drugs case to arbitration.

The IAAF decided on the move at Monday's council meeting in Gothenburg which considered her successful appeal against a four-year drugs ban.

But British Athletic Federation (BAF) spokesman Tony Ward said on Tuesday his federation would tell the IAAF that the evidence given by Modahl's team raised enough doubts about the original conviction to reverse the guilty verdict.

Modahl herself said she fears she may not get a fair hearing by the IAAF panel and called for a "summit" meeting of top scientists from both sides to discuss

the ramifications of her case. We believe that the evidence that was brought before our appeal panel raised sufficient doubt for us to clear Diane. That is what we will be going to the arbitration panel of the IAAF to say," Ward told BBC radio.

I think we regret very much that they didn't wait to read the transcript of the whole hearing and gain the evidence that was put before that appeal panel before they made their decision," he added.

The dispute puts the British federation on collision course with the IAAF, but Ward continued: "It is not the first time we have been into a head-to-head with the IAAF.

We did it last September when we decided to keep our women's team in the IAAF World Cup in London

because Diane had not, up to that time, had a hearing.

We are quite used to being head-to-head with the IAAF. I think that what the IAAF have failed to realise is that it was a very good panel.

I don't think they are just picking on us but many other federations tend to fall into line with whatever the IAAF wants to do.

We in Britain have always wanted to see in all these cases is that justice is done and justice is seen to be done for the athlete in question," he added.

The IAAF will now request a new analysis of the residual of Modahl's original urine sample, still retained by a Lisbon laboratory.

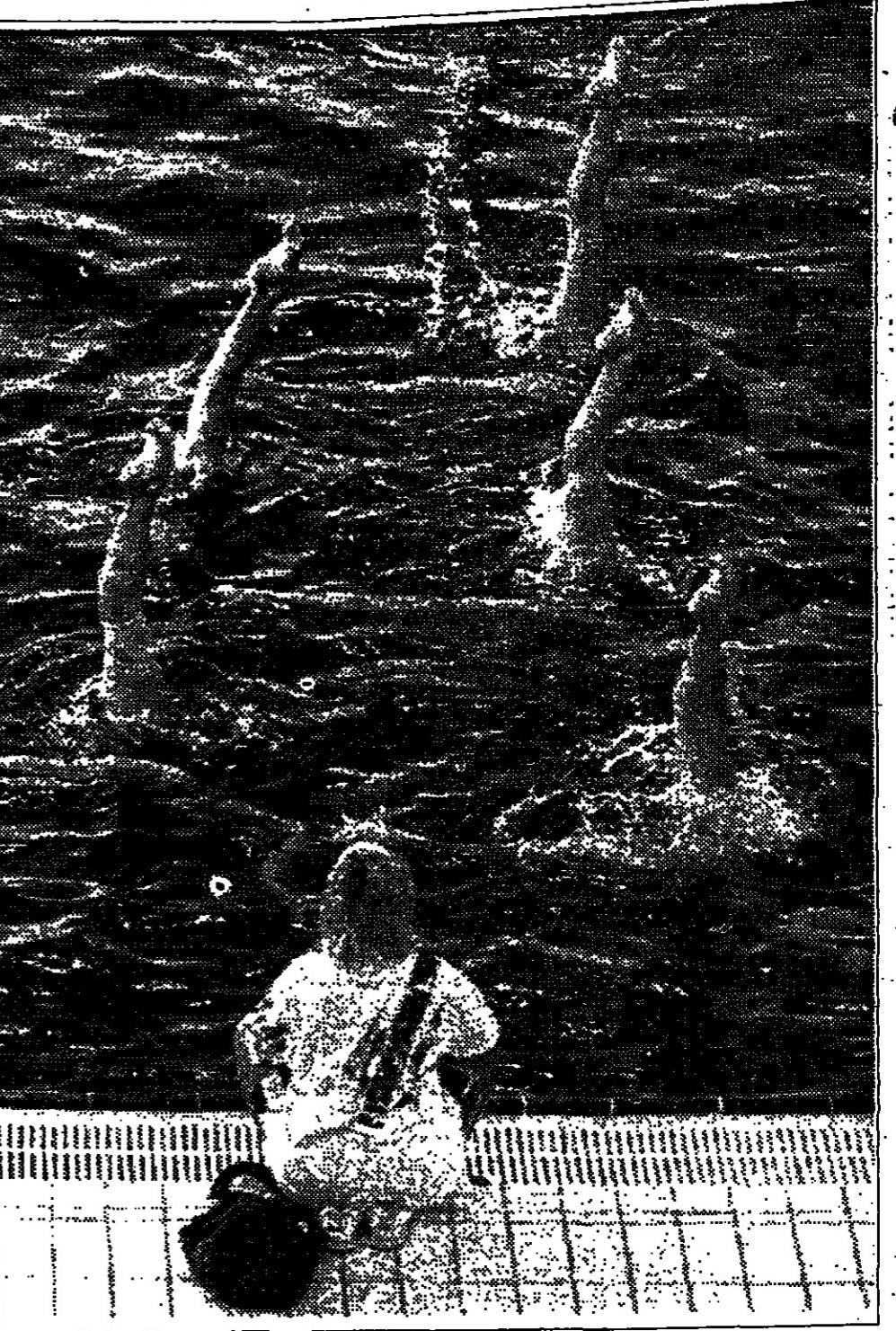
Modahl wants the IAAF to reconsider the decision to call her to an arbitration.

She declared: "We know that bad storage can lead to urine samples becoming heavily infected and generally contaminated.

We also know that what happens in heavily contaminated samples can actually create the very banned substance for which the scientists are testing. That is what happened in my case and must never happen again," she added.

The 1990 Commonwealth 800m champion also wants a summit meeting of top scientists to debate the issues raised by her case.

We will know more about the extent of the risk only if all these high-powered scientists get together, not in an adversarial setting such as before an arbitration panel, but in an atmosphere of scientific collaboration," she said.



Russian team exercising

The coach for the Russian synchronised swimming team works the team through drills July 31 at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Centre, site for the Centennial Olympic Games' aquatic venue. It will be the first Olympic venue to be opened, on August 1. The \$17 million Aquatic Centre is part of nearly \$500 million in ACOG construction projects (Reuters photo)

Chinese police accused of inciting spectator violence at soccer match

BEIJING (AFP) - The Chinese Football Association has started an inquiry into crowd troubles when police were said to have incited fans to violence during a match in the Shandong province capital, a report said Tuesday.

During the first half of the Chinese FA Cup semi-final between Jinan Taishan and Beijing Guo'an last weekend, Jinan fans began throwing bottles, cans, nails and bricks at opposing supporters, the Beijing Youth Daily said.

The Jinan fans were watched by police who called to them to throw harder, the paper charged.

"We couldn't understand

why the police didn't stop it at once. They even shouted to the Jinan fans to throw higher and harder," said a journalist present at the match.

One Beijing-Guo'an supporter needed stitches in the head after being hit by a bag of ice.

After the match, 200 Beijing fans following their club to an away game for the first time, were refused police protection when they returned to their buses, the paper said.

Violence has erupted at past matches between Chinese and foreign teams, but this was the first reported case at a domestic game.

IAAF ready to probe controversial record

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (R) - International Athletic-schies are ready to study controversial video pictures before ratifying Cuban Ivan Pedroso's world record breaking long jump at last Saturday's Sestriere athletics meeting.

Doubts have been cast over the official wind reading for the leap when Pedroso appeared to take advantage of a rare lull in gusting wind in the Italian ski resort to achieve his record jump of 8.96 metres.

Some spectators said they saw a man standing in front of the wind measuring machine alongside the track just before the 22-year-old Pedroso set off down the runway.

But video taken by an amateur cameraman alongside the track clearly shows someone in a blue jacket standing very near to the machine. German Television pictures, broadcast on Saturday, also showed a figure in a blue anorak at the scene.

said on Tuesday the IAAF's technical committee would be prepared to look at video material of the incident if necessary.

"We want all our world records to be watertight," Gyulai said. "If necessary we are prepared to look at video evidence."

Thick, low-lying clouds sweeping across the exposed stadium during the event meant the wind gauge was out of vision for official television cameras filming the event.

But video taken by an amateur cameraman alongside the track clearly shows someone in a blue jacket standing very near to the machine. German Television pictures, broadcast on Saturday, also showed a figure in a blue anorak at the scene.

three in a row, well under that level, culminating in the world record leap.

Gyulai said the IAAF always studied the circumstances of world records. In the past they had decided not to ratify a world record after certain evidence was brought showing an athlete had broken the rules.

"We always collect all the evidence to check everything is in order," Gyulai said. "We must make sure that world records are established in ordinary circumstances."

Gyulai refused to comment on whether the IAAF regarded the possibility of a man standing in front of the wind measuring machine as "ordinary circumstances", adding the technical committee would look at all the evidence.

Diego Maradonna says he would never set foot in U.S. 'Daughters to miss meeting Mickey Mouse'

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Argentinian footballing tragedy Diego Maradona said here on Tuesday that he would never again set foot in the United States, and therefore his daughters would miss meeting Mickey Mouse on a trip to Disneyworld, after he was only given an eight day visa instead of the 10 year visas his Boca Juniors teammates received.

The world's most fascinating if controversial footballing figure said: "They

refused to grant me a proper visa because I admire like Fidel Castro and I believe that Che Guevara is the greatest person of all time."

Maradona has not enjoyed good relations with the American authorities since being testing positive in a dope test at last year's World Cup for which he is still serving a suspension and would not have been able to play in the friendly tournament in New York.

The former Napoli player

said he was subjected to: "a humiliating and discriminatory questionnaire," at the American consulate in Buenos Aires.

The two time World Cup finalist, who is still idolised in Argentina, said: "They asked me the most extraordinary questions. Such as did I still take or sell drugs. I don't think the Americans for example are that pure and clean."

Maradona, who will earn about \$8 million over two years at Boca, showed flash-

es of brilliance in last year's World Cup scoring against Greece and creating one of the goals against Nigeria.

His splendid and enterprising team-mates banished the horrible memories of 1990 when they hacked and kicked their way to defeat in the final at the hands of Germany. They played the best football seen in the tournament but once he was removed they looked slightly lost and ended up losing 2-3 to Romania in the last 16.

Connors downs Borg in Mentadent tourney

DEARBORN, Michigan (AP) - Jimmy Connors rallied to beat Bjorn Borg 6-2, 6-4, 6-4 on Monday in the final of the Mentadent Champions.

Connors, who earned \$40,000 in the \$150,000 tournament, has won 13 of 15 events on the 35-and-over tour since it began in 1993 and has beaten Borg eight straight times.

"I started hitting the ball sooner and deeper, his game dropped just a little in the third set and I took advantage of it," Connors said. "I haven't seen anyone play like Borg in along time."

Borg led 4-2 in the third set.

"It was my match to win, and it was just a matter of one point tonight," Borg said. "Pointwise, I lost, but to me I won tonight."

Jordan Times
Tel. 667171

Christie never tested at home

LONDON (R) - Olympic and world 100 metres champion Lintford Christie has admitted he has never faced a random dope test at home because the British Sports Council does not have his address.

A television programme broadcast on Monday said members of the British Athletic Federation have Christie's address but have not passed it on to the sports council who conduct the tests.

"The fact that the sports council didn't know where I lived is very concerning for me but, you know, it still doesn't alter the fact that I'm tested a very large proportion of the time," Christie said on the programme.

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Sports

Police beat Corinthians' players after game

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — On the field, the battle with Palmeiras ended in a draw. Off the field, Corinthians took a beating.

State police with clubs beat Corinthians players as they boarded the team bus after Sunday's 1-1 tie in the opening game of the Sao Paulo state championship.

The main victim was all-star midfielder Ze Elias, considered a likely starter on Brazil's Olympic team. He was severely beaten on the left elbow and taken to a

hospital.

Although X-rays showed no fracture, a cast was put on his arm.

Team doctors listed his condition as doubtful for the deciding game next Sunday.

The violence reportedly started after a fan swore at a Corinthian player as the team boarded the bus and a reserve player, Ezequiel, stepped out of the bus and went after the fan. The police held him and the other Corinthian players back, and gave Ze Elias a beating in the

melee.

One policeman pulled a gun and said "I'll shoot, I'll shoot."

Ze Elias said in a tele-

vised interview, "Another took his club and hit me five or six times on the arm."

TV footage showed Corinthian forward Viola, a member of Brazil's 1994 World Cup champions, lunging out of the team bus to attack police, and teammates struggling to restrain him.

The team filed a criminal assault complaint against the policeman who

allegedly hit Ze Elias. The complaint only named that officer.

"The police officer said he was a Palmeiras fan," Jose Munsur Farah, president of the Corinthians Club, told the daily Folha de Sao Paulo.

The game was held in Ribeirao Preto, a farming city about 200 miles (320 kilometers) north of Sao Paulo. The site was chosen so the game could be televised live to Sao Paulo and because the city's largest stadiums were closed for repairs.

Corinthians players complained that the refereeing was partial and favored Palmeiras, the defending national and state champion.

Palmeiras scored the tying goal four minutes into injury time.

Corinthians holds an advantage in the final series because of its superior record in the regular season. The team can win the title next Sunday with a tie in regulation time and another tie in the 30-minute overtime period.

Sampson to coach U.S. National team

PRINCETON, New Jersey (AP) — Steve Sampson, who led the U.S. national soccer team to a string of unexpected successes this summer as interim coach, will get the full-time job.

Sampson, who has been running the team since April following the ouster of Bora Milutinovic, will be officially appointed Wednesday at a news conference at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Sampson was told by U.S. Soccer President Alan Rothenberg last Friday the position was his.

"If this is the result of some successful results, all the better," Sampson said Monday from the hotel where the team is training for this weekend's Parma Cup. "I've been given an opportunity now and I'm going to continue to do my best."

U.S. Soccer initially wanted a coach with an extensive international resume. But Sampson's direction in leading the Americans to the U.S. Cup '94 title and a startling fourth-place finish in the America cup seems to have brought a change in thinking.

"We had wanted someone with a lot of international experience, but Steve is learning on the job and will continue to learn," U.S. Soccer Executive Director Hank Steinbrecher told USA Today. "He's proved his worth. It's proved that he can coach the national team."



Michael Schumacher

Schumacher decides to put off wedding

COLOGNE, Germany (AP) — Formula One champion Michael Schumacher postponed his wedding Tuesday after a newspaper got wind of it and swarms of reporters began arriving in the racer's home town, a spokesman said.

The spokesman for the town of Kerpen, near Cologne, told the Associated Press that the 26-year-old Schumacher's marriage with Corinna Betsch, 27, scheduled for the Kerpen city hall at 11 a.m., would take place unannounced later.

The church ceremony will occur Saturday at a chapel in the Petersberg Guest House near Bonn, which is usually used to house state visitors. The road to the hilltop hotel will be sealed off Friday night.

Women's national team back from Asian championship

Salti chosen among top 5 players

By Aleen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian women's national basketball team returned home early Tuesday morning after taking part in the 16th Asian Basketball Championship for Women, which was held in the Japanese City of Shizuoka from July 24-30.

Taking part in the competition for the first time, the Kingdom's team finished fifth in Level B which also included teams from Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Level A included China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

China's Xin Li was chosen the tournament's top scorer, Japan's Takako Kato top defensive player, China's Zongqing Ma top free-throw shooter, Korea's Chun top three point shooter and teammate Chun Sook.

While the team was warmly welcomed for their first participation by the organizers and other delegations, Jordan's players and officials were delighted when the team's top scorer, Jumana Salti, was chosen among the top five Asian players in Level B and received her award from the mayor of Shizuoka together with two players from Thailand (Maliwan Lekla and Somtaw Benarlee) and one each from Hong Kong (Ho Ching) and Malaysian (Chin Fong).

Salti was Jordan's top scorer and rebounder, averaging 16.8 points per game (see table).

Three-time winners and defending champions China won the Level A title after a 94-69 win over South Korea, while Japan came in third after a 68-65 win over Taiwan.

Thailand won the Level B title and will play in Level A in the 1997 championship which is expected to be held in Hong Kong.



Jordan's Jumana Salti goes through Indonesia's defence in the national team's last match in the tournament. Salti was chosen one of Asia's top five players

Level B tournament after defeating Indonesia 58-55 79-41 The Philippines-Jordan

Malaysia-Jordan 82-38

Hong Kong - Jordan 65-45

Thailand-Jordan 71-42

The only Arab team in the 12-nation tournament, Jordan finished fifth in the top assist.

Other results came as follows:

Jordan's top scorers			
Player	Total points	Average	Games played
Jumana Salti	84	16.8	5
Hala Muheisin	35	7	5
Jehane Abdennour	31	6.2	5
Rana Husseini	22	4.4	5

Top rebounders			
Player	Total rebounds	Average	Games
Jumana Salti	60	12	5
Rana Husseini	31	6.2	5
Hind Ghouri	20	5	4
Andera Kasesjeh	23	4.6	5

Volkov beats Rusedski in LA tournament

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Alexander Volkov, the No. 7 seed from Russia, beat hard-serving Greg Rusedski 7-5, 6-4 Monday in the first round of the \$328,000 Infiniti Open.

Volkov lost to Rusedski the three previous times they played.

Rusedski, a Canadian who recently became a British citizen, has a serve that's been clocked at 137 miles per hour (221 kilometers per hour).

"This is indeed a big win for me," Volkov said. "... My concentration was way up from the first to the last point. He is a big server, and I made almost no mistakes."

No. 8 Brent Steven of New Zealand, the only other seed to play, was beaten 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 by Marcos Ondruska of South Africa at the Los Angeles Tennis Centre.

Steven closed the match by winning the final four games.

In other first-round matches, Derrick Rosnagel eliminated

nated qualifier Kent Kinneaird 6-3, 6-3; Michael Joyce beat Paul Wekesa of Kenya 6-1, 6-4; and Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland rallied past Jordi Burillo of Spain 4-6, 6-1, 7-5.

Top-seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia was to play Tuesday night against Kenneth Carlsen of Sweden.

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Russian, Chechen commanders call rebels to disarm

GROZNY, Russia (R) — The Russian military chief in Chechnya and the rebel commander met on Tuesday in the regional capital Grozny at the head of a newly-formed joint commission to call separatist fighters to lay down their arms.

The commission — the first body in which separatist rebels and Moscow officials would act as a team — has been formed to oversee the implementation of a breakthrough military agreement they had reached on Sunday.

A Chechen spokesman said rebel military chief Aslan Maskhadov and Russian military commander in the region Anatoly Romanov asked separatist fighters to disarm.

The appeal said those who surrendered their arms voluntarily would not be punished for participation in fighting against Russian forces during the bloody seven-month conflict.

"We appeal to the field commanders to do all they can to prevent provocations... which could cause major trouble," the spokesman quoted the appeal as saying.

Disarming the rebels is part of Sunday's deal under which Russia promised to withdraw most of the troops sent in last December to quell Chechnya's three-year independence bid.

Russia would keep only two brigades in Chechnya — one from the army and another from the interior ministry forces.

The Chechen spokesman quoted Mr. Maskhadov as saying that they had agreed with Mr. Romanov to order their forces to stop fighting.

Interfax news agency said Mr. Maskhadov had told his forces earlier on Tuesday to cease fire from midnight (2000 GMT). There were no reports of a similar order by Mr. Romanov.

In the meantime clashes between troops and rebels continued across Chechnya. Interfax said on Tuesday two Russian servicemen had been killed and five others wounded in the past 24 hours.

"They are trying to penetrate Grozny and other settlements and open fire from populated areas to provoke return fire," a Russian military official in Chechnya told Interfax.

Russian troops had been instructed to fire back only in extreme circumstances, he said.

TASS quoted a senior Russian official as saying most rebel field commanders wanted to stick to the terms of the deal.

But some commanders close to rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, who is sticking by his 1991 declaration of independence for Chechnya, were planning to seize power by force, he said.

Gen. Dudayev has poured scorn on the agreement reached in Grozny after more than seven months of fighting, a deal which leaves open

key political issues such as Chechnya's future status and Gen. Dudayev's own role in the region.

Mr. Maskhadov toned down Gen. Dudayev's remarks, made in an interview with U.S. State Department-funded Liberty radio on Monday.

"The (Dudayev) made his comments in an apparent agitation," the Chechen spokesman quoted Mr. Maskhadov as saying on Tuesday.

"We discussed the agreement with the president yesterday (on Monday). In principle he does not oppose it apart from several minor points," Mr. Maskhadov said.

In another step to implement Sunday's deal Mr. Maskhadov on Tuesday ordered an exchange of maps locating military units and weaponry to be destroyed and announced a reward of up to 300,000 roubles (\$68) for every rifle handed in.

Russian forces would have to draw back from areas where Chechen weaponry was given up and self-defence units would be set up and allowed to hold some weapons as long as they cooperated with the Russians.

Russians and Chechens military leaders exchanged lists of prisoners-of-war on Tuesday but said they were incomplete so an exchange of prisoners, due to have begun on Monday, would probably not start until Thursday.



Israeli police battle settlers for the second day running at Beit El near Ramallah in the occupied West Bank where the settlers intended to set a new Jewish colony (see story page 1) (AFP photo)

Court delays hearing of Abu Zeid's appeal

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian court delayed Tuesday a hearing on a Cairo university lecturer's request for a stay of execution on a judgement ordering him to divorce his wife on grounds of heresy, legal sources said.

The decision marked the third time that hearings on an appeal for a stay of execution have been postponed because of procedural reasons since a court on June 15 issued the unprecedented ruling against Nasser Hamed Abu Zeid.

The appeals, made by Dr. Abu Zeid or close associates, are aimed at preventing Muslim extremists from demanding that policy carry out the order for him to divorce.

An appeals court ruling in June said that Dr. Abu Zeid's writings on religion "attack" and "incited disrespect" for Islam and ordered his divorce from his wife on the grounds that a Muslim woman cannot be married to an apostate.

Islamic extremists filed the suit demanding the forced divorce.

By Egyptian law, the plaintiffs can use the ruling to ask police to forcibly remove his wife Yunis from her home or raise a morals case against her for living with a man outside marriage.

In their appeal for a stay of execution, Dr. Abu Zeid's wife said the ruling "threatened their lives because by declaring her husband an apostate, they have given a weapon to those who do not know him but want to kill him."

The couple has also requested a hearing with the final appeals court, arguing that the lower court did not have the authority to judge someone an "apostate," but no date has been set, a legal source said.

Dr. Abu Zeid and his wife are currently on vacation outside Egypt, according to sources close to them who would not say what country they were in.

In its ruling, the court said Dr. Abu Zeid wrote that Islamic laws giving women half the inheritance of men were unjust in an age when women work and contribute to household earnings.

The cases hinged on the sharia law principle of "hisba" (accounting), which allows any Muslim to take to court an offender against Islam even if he is not directly harmed by the offence.

Iraq condemns U.S. mediation between Kurdish factions

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq condemned Tuesday plans for U.S.-mediated talks aimed at ending the fighting between Kurdish factions in northern Iraq, calling the move interference in its internal affairs.

The official newspaper Al Iraq, published by Kurds loyal to the government in Baghdad, said that "meeting between U.S. State Department officials and rival Kurdish factions, or their invitation to Washington, were against the people's rights and choice, as defined by the United Nations Charter."

The two main feuding Kurdish factions in northern Iraq have accepted a U.S. plan for peace talks next week in Lisbon, Kurdish officials said Monday.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), which have controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the end of the 1991 Gulf War, are locked in a bitter struggle for power and over tax revenue.

More than 2,000 people have been killed since the fighting erupted in May 1994, according to Kurdish sources.

Al Iraq said "America's irrational methods were largely responsible for the fighting" between the KDP and the PUK, which has "destroyed the economy and social fabric of the region, in the absence of a state authority."

The paper warned of "the danger of American policies

on regional security," and said that "continuing interference by Washington in Iraq's domestic affairs and its support of rival Kurdish factions will expose the region to dangers of incalculable consequences."

The U.S.-mediated meeting is scheduled for August 9 through August 11 in the Portuguese capital, and would be the first between the two sides' political bureaus in seven months.

A three-month ceasefire ran out between the Kurdish factions July 15, but renewed clashes which flared on July 9, mainly around the town of Arbil, have left more than 200 people dead, according to U.N. and foreign aid workers.

Meanwhile the Russian Foreign Minister, Andrei Kozyrev, will defend his country's policy toward Iraq when he arrives here Wednesday on the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Kuwait, diplomats said Tuesday.

Moscow last November offered to mediate to clear up the issue Baghdad recognised for the first time last September that it had arrested 73 Kuwaitis but said it had lost track of them.

A western diplomat added that Mr. Kozyrev will also have to defend Russia's policy toward Bosnia, which the Arabs complain is biased toward the Serbs.

"Arab countries, including Kuwait, are astonished at Russia's position," which rejects any use of force to settle the conflict, he added.

On Tuesday the United Arab Emirates protested to Russia over Bosnia and warned it risked losing Arab and Muslim friends.

20,000 Kurds stage march in Berlin

BERLIN (AP) — Chanting "freedom for Kurdistan," around 20,000 Kurds marched through Berlin Tuesday behind the coffin of a woman who died during a hunger strike in solidarity with Kurds imprisoned in Turkey.

Heightened Kurdish militance brought warnings from politicians against violence spilling into Germany from the conflict in Turkey. A Berlin conservative, Heinrich Lümmel of the Christian Democratic Union Party, said Germany could become a "multi-conflict society" if immigration isn't reduced.

Leftist Daniel Cohn-Bendit, the Frankfurt city adviser on multi-cultural affairs, said he sympathised with the Kurdish struggle in Turkey but he also blamed Wednesday in Osnabrück, the western German city where she lived.

About 60 hunger-strikers were in the protest march, the weaker ones in a bus.

The Berlin hunger strike, in its 13th day, was in solidarity with some 5,000 Kurdish prisoners fasting for 19 days in Turkey. One of those died last week.

They are protesting Turkey's military campaign against Kurds striving for independence, and they demand that the United Nations and Red Cross representatives be sent to ensure that the Turkish army respects the Geneva Convention.

About 1,500 Kurds demonstrated Tuesday at the United Nations building in Geneva, Switzerland, and in Athens, Greece, about 200 Kurds demonstrated outside the German embassy.

Germany's federal prosecutors, meanwhile, announced an indictment against a 24-year-old Turkish Kurd, identified only as Mehmetirin O., who is accused of membership of a terrorist organisation.

marched from the Kreuzberg district to the centre of western Berlin behind the Hearse carrying the coffin of Gulnaz Baghishani. No incidents were reported.

Mrs. Baghishani, 44, a native of Iraq, died of heart failure last Thursday during a demonstration after fasting for eight days. The mother of five daughters is to be buried Wednesday in Osnabrück, the western German city where she lived.

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Writers urge clemency for ex-Black Panther

PARIS (AFP) — A writers group that includes Salman Rushdie and Taslima Nasreen called Tuesday for a review of the trial of an ex-member of the Black Panthers, facing execution for the slaying of a white police officer.

Mumia Abu Jamal faces execution by lethal injection on August 17 at 10:00 p.m. local time (2000 GMT) in New York, led by writer William Styron, and in Montreal.

Mr. Abu Jamal, a former journalist and ex-member of the militant Black Panthers movement, was condemned to death in 1982 after being convicted of murder on Dec. 9, 1981. On Oct. 1, 1990, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review the sentence.

Human rights groups have organised demonstrations supporting Mr. Abu Jamal in various countries, and an international day of action has been called for on Aug. 12.

On Monday, Belgium's ambassador in the United States pleaded clemency for Mr. Abu Jamal. The European parliament has already spoken out for him.

In Europe, demonstrations have been called over the next few days in Paris, Brussels, Bologna, in Italy and Copenhagen.

In Canada, there will be demonstrations in Toronto on Aug. 7 and in Montreal on Aug. 8.

A caravan will leave San Francisco on Saturday to cross the United States and join the demonstrations in Philadelphia.

They are protesting Turkey's military campaign against Kurds striving for independence, and they demand that the United Nations and Red Cross representatives be sent to ensure that the Turkish army respects the Geneva Convention.

They are also calling for a review of the trial, which has been questioned by human rights activists.

In addition to the protest by the writers group, which Mr. Rushdie heads, human rights groups have planned protests in Europe, the United States and Canada.

In Paris, South African writer Breyten Breytenbach read a message of thanks from Mr. Abu Jamal to the 500 writers who asked the governor of Pennsylvania to delay the execution.

They are also calling for a review of the trial, which has been questioned by human rights activists.

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COLUMN

Yeltsin to stay in sanatorium this week

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin is recovering normally from a heart problem, feeling cheerful and working hard, but will probably remain in a sanatorium until the end of this week, ITAR-TASS news agency said Tuesday. "The president's recovery is going well," TASS said. The agency quoted Mr. Yeltsin's press service as saying no working meetings were planned for Tuesday, but that the president was getting ready for meetings later in the week.

Mr. Yeltsin, 64, was taken ill on July 10 with chest pains later diagnosed as a deterioration of a long-standing heart condition. He spent two weeks in hospital, before being transferred to a sanatorium on the outskirts of Moscow. In a television appearance on July 18 designed to quash speculation about his ability to rule, Mr. Yeltsin looked fit and said he was being kept up to date on affairs of state. The president has been working both from hospital and from the sanatorium, appointing ministers and signing documents on a range of policy issues.

It's now okay to (boldly) split infinitives

OXFORD, England (AFP) — The Hollywood sci-fi epic Star Trek, which gave America its most famous split infinitive, has been vindicated by Oxford University language gurus who say it's okay to boldly go beyond the rules of grammar so long as it makes sense. But Oxford University Press' (OUP) "Plain English Guide," which comes out in August and in addition to authorising split infinitives, says it's okay to start a sentence with "but," is not getting entirely rave reviews. "We need firm rules for English grammar," said language purist Nick Seaton of the Campaign for Real Education. "I hope this is not the top of a slippery slope."

The guide, which also legitimises the forbidden single-sentence paragraph, is intended to "banish gobbledegook and doublespeak" from the language, says its publisher. Example: A secretary of state, responding to an assistant's request for a pay raise, wrote, "Because of the fluctuating predisposition of your position's productive capacity as juxtaposed to government standards, it would be momentary injudicious to advocate an increment." Translation: Forget it. But the guide's most controversial component is its frontal attack on the centuries-old canon: "Thou shalt not split an infinitive," a problem unique to English which is virtually the only Western language with two-word infinitives.

Trustees of the language nonetheless like to think of their infinitives as integral, inviolable entities and abhor the interposition of adverbs between the "to" and the rest.

ALGIERS (AF) — A person was killed and 15 injured when an explosion south of the Algerian capital on Wednesday, the latest in a series of attacks in recent days.

On Aug. 12, another car bomb exploded in the town of Bougla, 15 miles south of Algiers, killing several people, according to press reports. No one had reported the explosion.

Christian Salom, the general secretary of the group, denounced the "iniquity" of the Abu-Jamal's trial, its "anti-constitutional" character and alleged that witnesses had been pressured to change their story.

He compared Mr. Abu Jamal's conviction to the Dreyfus affair which shook France at the beginning of the century. At that time, the young Captain Dreyfus, facing execution for the slaying of a white police officer.

Also Tuesday, demonstrators supporting Mr. Abu Jamal took place in New York, led by writer William Styron, and in Montreal.

Mr. Abu Jamal, a former journalist and ex-member of the militant Black Panthers movement, was condemned to death in 1982 after being convicted of murder on Dec. 9, 1981. On Oct. 1, 1990, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review the sentence.

Human rights groups have organised demonstrations supporting Mr. Abu Jamal in various countries, and an international day of action has been called for on Aug. 12.

On Monday, Belgium's ambassador in the United States pleaded clemency for Mr. Abu Jamal. The European parliament has already spoken out for him.

In Europe, demonstrations have been called over the next few days in Paris, Brussels, Bologna, in Italy and Copenhagen.

In Canada, there will be demonstrations in Toronto on Aug. 7 and in Montreal on Aug. 8.

A caravan will leave San Francisco on Saturday to cross the United States and join the demonstrations in Philadelphia.

U.S. Senate wants names of U.N. 'deadbeat diplomats'

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate voted 94-2 to withhold \$10 million of United Nations funding until Congress gets the names of "deadbeat diplomats" at the U.N. who are not paying their bills. A report by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has said that diplomats and missions posted to the world body have run up debts of more than \$9 million to banks, landlords, hotels, utility companies and merchants in New York City, according to the Washington Times newspaper. Senate Republican leader Bob Dole told the Senate the story showed an outrageous example of lack of accountability of the United Nations. Sen. Dole said he supported an amendment to a State Department bill offered by Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms, Republican of North Carolina, which would require the secretary of state to identify the "deadbeat diplomats."

CAIRO (AP) — A court in Cairo on Wednesday sentenced two men to death for the killing of a prominent Muslim cleric in 1987. The two men, Sadiq and